

**Michael Flatley:
Dancing
wrecked my
marriage**

page 17

**Times
man is top
of the
tipsters**

page 52

**Should
Hitler's
Olympic art
be saved?**

page 11



SHORT BREAKS IN EUROPE... £100,000 FANTASY FOOTBALL: CHECK YOUR SCORES TODAY PAGES 24 & 25

Human spare-part cloning approved



"Heaven knows what I would have done without a spare"

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

EXPERTS will recommend the Government today to allow research into human cloning techniques to make spare parts for transplants or the treatment of disease.

The recommendation will come from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which was asked in January to advise on the legal and ethical aspects of cloning in the light of the scientific success in creating Dolly the sheep.

The four members of the panel have come down firmly against allowing cloned babies to be created, but have decided that, subject to safeguards, research should continue into creating cloned tissues that can be transplanted.

The report is being published months ahead of schedule, hurried through at the insistence of ministers under pressure from biotechnology companies anxious to know the rules governing a fast-developing and lucrative area of research.

Although the authority considers that there is an ethical difference between cloning a baby and cloning tissue, the technology involved in the processes is identical.

The genes are removed from an egg with a fine needle. Stem cells from the person whose tissue is to be cloned are put beside the egg. An

electric current is passed through the cells and the empty egg so that they fuse together. The process confuses the egg into "believing" that it has been fertilised and it begins to grow and develop into an embryo.

It is then possible to remove the developing cells from the embryo and persuade them to develop into a wide range of tissues that can be used in transplants. Because the cloned tissue is identical to that of the donor there are no rejection problems if it is used in a transplant and the real advantages of this are a major reason why the authority panel decided to recommend that research in the field should continue.

The essential safeguard to prevent

cloned babies from being born is expected to take the form of a requirement that the embryos will be kept alive only long enough to produce the stem cells needed for growing the different types of tissue. That is likely to be no longer than a week.

The committee was chaired by the Rev Dr John Polkinghorne, an expert in medical ethics. His recommendations come as politicians try to reconcile public anxieties about cloning with demands from big companies working at the forefront of biotechnology. About three quarters of those questioned at the weekend in an NOP poll commissioned by the Wellcome Foundation opposed the use of cloning even for tissue.

There have been important advances in cloning technology since Dolly was born. Researchers at Bath University have created a headless frog, using a cloning technique that one day may make it possible to grow complicated organs such as hearts and kidneys. Three weeks ago a researcher at the University of Massachusetts disclosed that he had successfully fused his own cells with a cow egg and created an embryo that lived for five days. Eggs emptied of genes from animals such as cows or pigs may therefore be used in which to grow cloned tissue from human beings.

John Harris, professor of ethics at the Institute of Medicine, Law and

Bioethics at Manchester University, argues that making spare parts in this way is no more than a logical extension of present transplant surgery. "We are seeing siblings giving parts of themselves to save a brother or sister, with some even making organ donations," he says. "If that is ethically OK, what is the difference with using an embryo?"

However, Dr Patrick Dixon, author of *The Genetic Revolution*, argues that allowing research into therapeutic cloning will open the door to human cloning. "This technology will be abused," he said yesterday. "People have been e-mailing me saying they want to be cloned for the past three years."

Curbs on Post Office relaxed

By CHRISTINE BRUCKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Post Office is to lose its monopoly on delivering letters costing less than 1p under plans set out by Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

It will also be ruled by a new regulator. But the Post Office will be able to keep more of its profits, rather than give them to the Treasury, and be allowed to buy overseas companies.

Mr Mandelson set out proposals to give the Post Office more commercial freedom after backing down from a partial privatisation of the organisation.

The Government had been considering a sale of 49 per cent of the organisation but had met with stiff resistance from the Communication Workers' Union and Labour backbenchers.

It is also likely to have been worried about a backlash from the public over concerns that rural post offices would be shut down.

Mr Mandelson conceded that the Government needed to take public opinion with it on decisions about the Post Office.

The amount of cash the Post Office must hand over to the Treasury will halve - giving the organisation an extra £1 billion over the next five years. This it will be allowed to spend

on overseas ventures, providing the Government approves them.

At present it is only allowed to spend £20 million a year on international activities and has been warning that it is losing a global race for business against German and Dutch competitors.

Mr Mandelson claimed that the measures will allow the Post Office to "grasp new opportunities" and improve the standards of existing services, whilst retaining a universal service, a public tariff and a nationwide network of post offices.

He said that a partial sale of the business was out of the question because of legislative time. However, Mr Mandelson did not rule out a sale further in the future.

He claimed that both ruling out the option for the present and maintaining it for the future ended uncertainty over the Post Office's future.

A White Paper in the new year will set out further plans to reduce the Post Office's monopoly on letters costing less than 1p and outline the powers of a new regulator for the business.

Neville Bain, chairman of the Post Office, said a key issue would be "the speed at which the White Paper is published and whether it will translate the objectives announced today into a real and meaningful strategic relationship between the Post Office and the Government".

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said after the Commons debate that the country now had "a Mandelson Post Office". He said Mr Mandelson "has made it into his own playground".

Derek Hodgson, General Secretary of the Communication Workers' Union, said: "We challenged Peter to choose an option outside the narrow confines of old-style privatisation and raw-market-driven privatisation, and this he has done."



Peers, including Lord Healey and Lord Rix, rehearse at the Players Theatre, London, for the End of the Peer Show to mark Lord Rix's retirement as chairman of Mencap

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE farce currently playing at the House of Lords temporarily moved to London's West End last night as peers put on a show to celebrate Lord Rix's retirement as chairman of Mencap.

In a cavalcade of silly costumes and accents, 14 peers performed songs, limericks and magic tricks to raise money for the charity, which helps people with learning difficulties. Lord Rix, who, as Brian Rix, was the doyen of saucy Whitehall farces, and is now an esteemed member of the Upper House's crossbenches, is standing down this weekend after heading the charity for ten years.

Peers join the House of Laughs

Among those performing in the one-off *End of the Peer Show* before an audience of 250 at the Players' Theatre in central London, were Lord Healey, the former Labour Chancellor, who donned a false moustache, flat cap and brown mackintosh to recite *The Lion and the Lamb*. Lord Janner, the former Labour MP, performed some magic tricks. The Lords Montague of Beaulieu, Gisborough and Geddes joined the flamboyant Marquess of Bath to sing Noel Coward's *Stately Homes of England*.

Lord Rix, 74, who once ap-

peared in a farce topically entitled *Uproar in the House*, donned a bowler hat, and oversized suit and boots to declaim the tale of Bessie's Boil.

He told *The Times*: "Last week the media described events in the House of Lords as farcical. Tonight, with an inate sense of timing - which is essential for farce - we've got the *End of the Peer Show*."

Tickets for the black-tie evening of "nostalgic entertainment, convivial supper and intimate dancing" at the theatre under the arches of Charing Cross cost £75.

Other peers in the show in-

cluded the Earl Alexander of Tunis, who played the ragtime tune *Carolina Shout* on the piano; Lord Elton, a Tory peer, who recited some of his limericks; Viscount Dillhorne, the operatic Tory peer, sang songs from *The Mikado* and *Pirates of Penzance*; the husband and wife team of Lord and Lady Rea performed *The Bassoon*; and Lord Renton, the 90-year-old Tory and former Mencap chairman, recited *A Long Life in the Lords*.

Music was provided by the House of Lords Ensemble playing Dvorak, and the Earl of Dundee playing Scarlatti

and Chopin on the piano. Guests later danced to Lord Colwyn and his jazz band.

Lord Rix, who has been involved in Mencap for more than 40 years, will become the charity's president on his retirement. It is estimated that 1.2 million people with learn-

ing disabilities in the UK have been helped by the charity.

He said: "I have loved my time at Mencap, and am delighted by the way that the organisation is continuing to develop. There is still a long way to go before people with learning difficulties are treated equally but we are certainly making positive steps towards that day."

Lords reform, page 10

Yeltsin back in charge

Boris Yeltsin emerged from hospital, sacked four members of his administration and returned to his sick bed to continue recuperating from pneumonia. He also brought the Justice Ministry under his control. Page 13

Aitken for trial

Jonathan Aitken, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, was committed for trial on charges of perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. A hearing was set for January. Page 2

Cheetah appeal

There are no more than 10,000 cheetahs left in the wild and one of the causes covered by *The Times* Christmas appeal is for the Serengeti Cheetah Project. Page 4

Employers face big charges for workplace car parking

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALL employers will be charged for providing workplace parking spaces under plans being announced today to tackle traffic congestion.

Motorists will also be charged for driving in busy cities and towns, either by electronic tolls or road permits. The proposals, which would raise billions of pounds, also put motorway charges back on the agenda.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will argue that hospitals, schools and residential homes should all be charged for parking spaces, unless local councils choose to make them exempt. The document will suggest that only spaces for emergency vehicles could be excluded nationally.

There are an estimated six million parking spaces in Eng-

land and Wales and employers could be charged up to £1,000 a place per annum in Central London, with lower fees in other areas.

The scheme, which could raise £400 million in London, is mainly directed at big firms that encourage staff to drive into work by offering them parking spaces. But by spreading the proposal to public services, ministers hope that the average levy will be lower and therefore more acceptable to private companies.

Today's consultation paper will propose two options on road charging: electronic charging and permits. Mr Prescott is said to favour electronic tolls, as they are more accurate and need less supervision. In October he was impressed by a scheme in Singa-

pore under which drivers buy smart cards which are docked by roadside beacons on the way into the city centre.

Charges are made during the rush hour and are higher on some roads than others. If the driver has used up all the credit, a camera is triggered in the same way as a speed trap.

Ministers will emphasise today that all proceeds from road and car-park charging will be earmarked for local councils, which will be required to spend the revenue on improving public transport.

The Greater London Authority Bill, introduced last week, will allow road charges and car park fees to go ahead in London. The favoured option is road permits, which would be bought in advance and displayed in car windshields.

OH DARLING, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE

Some men think that giving a woman jewellery is as simple as giving her a kiss. Well it is - almost. But you can double her delight if you go to the right jeweller, pick just

You may be a man of few words Sebastian, but I share the way you express yourself!



the right design, and present it in just the right way. Boodle and Dunthorne, the leading English jewellers, have packed two centuries of experience into a witty and useful booklet. To secure a copy - pop into Boodles or telephone 0171-437 5050.

1 Sloane Street, London SW1.
128-130 Regent Street, London W1.
1 King Street, Manchester.

BOODLE & DUNTHORNE
ESTABLISHED 1700

TV & RADIO	50.51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26.52
LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
LIBBY PURVES	19
ARTS	25.37
CHESS & BRIDGE	46
COURT & SOCIAL	20
LAW REPORT	23
FEATURES	16.17
SPORT	45.52

Buying The Times overseas
Australia \$20, Belgium £10, Canada \$20, Denmark \$20, France \$20, Germany \$20, Greece \$20, Hong Kong \$20, India \$20, Italy \$20, Japan \$20, Korea \$20, Malaysia \$20, Mexico \$20, New Zealand \$20, Norway \$20, Portugal \$20, Singapore \$20, South Africa \$20, Spain \$20, Sweden \$20, Switzerland \$20, Taiwan \$20, Thailand \$20, USA \$20, UK \$20, Yugoslavia \$20.
Periodicals postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Times c/o Mercury International 365 Blair Road Avenel, NJ 07001.



Tories squeak and splutter over Our Peter's postal order

About the time yesterday when in most of Britain the second post is being delivered, the Industry Secretary stalked up the Commons path to deliver his plans for the Post Office. But Peter Mandelson made an unlikely Postman Pat. On his cheerier days the MP for Hartlepool represents a snarl in a silk tie — better imagined as dangerous dog than postman.

If he were an item in the Royal Mail, what would Mr Mandelson be? One of those

threatening letters from the police informing you that your car is on speed-camera, you have 14 days, and they know where you live.

Answering Mandelson, John Redwood called him "lost in the post". But what were the Shadow Industry Secretary himself to plop on to our doormats, would Mr Redwood be? One of those envelopes addressed in green ink — and surcharged as being a couple of stamps short of the right postage. We must not, however, be too hard on

Redwood. Responding to Mandelson, appraising Mandelson, even interpreting Mandelson, has become near-impossible. Addressing MPs and journalists, the Industry Secretary's barely-concealed scorn reminds me of a marginal note on a civil service brief, read out in error once by a minister in the Upper Chamber: "This is a bad argument, but good enough for their Lordships on a hot afternoon."

Mandelson's delivery, with its atrocious mixed meta-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

phors, absurd claims and bare-faced fibs, served to distance the man from the message: he just doesn't give a toss what we think, and he wants us to know it. He is now not far from the point Alan Clark reached when, as a minister, he read out a speech (drafted by a civil servant) in a flat, schoolboy mono-

tone. "The British Post Office," said Mandelson, "has been demanding changes to its own organisation for years and years, but without anyone in Government, until now, prepared to act."

Tories spluttered and squeaked. He knows, of course, as they knew, and as the backbenchers behind him

knew, that the last Government kept trying to restructure the Post Office, and were thwarted by a blocking alliance between the Labour Party and a handful of Tory rebels. But — hey! — that's our Peter: outrageous! Don't cha just love him? The ordinary rules don't apply. Mr Mandelson is to be judged by the standards applicable to a hybrid of Nero and Ken Dodd.

"We are indeed ushering in the start of a confident, bright new dawn for the Post Office," he drawled as MPs giv-

gled. "Everyone stands to be a winner from our reforms..." He sat down to await the usual rant from John Redwood, which Mr Mandelson waved away as though dealing with a wasp worrying the ladies at a picnic. Redwood ended his response by asking five clear questions, point by point. We awaited the minister's answer.

"Return to sender," replied Mandelson, airily — "every single one of his questions is answered by my Statement" — and he moved on. And that

was all he said. In fact few if any of Redwood's questions were answered in the Statement, but — hey! — that's our Peter.

For the Liberal Democrats, David Chidgey babbled worthily about village post offices and car tax. You knew you ought to listen, but...

As an item in your morning's post, what would the Liberal Democrat be? One of those charity appeals enclosing a stubby pencil. You feel guilty about binning it. But you do.

Aitken is sent for trial at the Old Bailey

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, was yesterday committed for trial at the Old Bailey on charges of perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

The charges against Mr Aitken, 56, who served as Chief Secretary to the Treasury from 1994-95, relate to the collapse of his High Court libel action against *The Guardian* and Granada television's *World In Action* programme last year. The action centred on the allegation that he had stayed at the Ritz Hotel in Paris in 1993 at the expense of prominent Saudi Arabian friends when he was Minister for Defence Procurement.

Graham Parkinson, the chief metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, took a little over ten minutes to complete the committal hearing at Bow Street Magistrates Court in central London: they had been adjourned last month.

Said Mohammed Ayas, 56, Mr Aitken's former business associate, was also committed to stand trial on the conspiracy charge — a joint charge with the former minister — and a separate charge of perverting the course of justice. Neither has entered a plea to the charges. They face one joint charge, that they conspired to pervert

the course of justice, along with Mr Aitken's estranged wife, Lolita, between April 9, 1995, and June 21, 1997.

They are accused of signing witness statements for the High Court case knowing that they gave a false account, in that they said Mrs Aitken and their daughter, Victoria, 18, were in Paris prior to travelling to Geneva on September 17, 1993, and while there stayed at Mr Ayas's daughter's flat, and that on September 19 Mrs Aitken was in Paris and paid a sum of money in respect of a bill incurred by Mr Aitken at the hotel.

Mr Ayas alone is charged with acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice between April 9, 1995, and June 21, 1997, in signing a witness statement dated February 20, 1997, knowing that it gave a false version of events in that it said that on or about September 16, 1993, Mrs Aitken and Victoria stayed in his daughter's Paris flat, and that on September 19 he saw Mrs Aitken in the Ritz and she had told him that she had paid Mr Aitken's bill.

Mr Aitken faces three further charges. The first is that between April 9, 1995, and June 4, 1997, he did acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice in that he

made and signed a witness statement dated March 10, 1997, which gave a false version of events, namely that Mrs Aitken was in Paris and on September 19, 1993, had paid FF4,257 in respect of his Ritz bill.

The next charge is that between June 13 and 18, 1997, he did acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice in that he drafted a witness statement in the name of Victoria and obtained her signature to that statement, dated June 17, which contained a false version of events, in that it said that Victoria and her mother travelled to Paris on September 16, 1993, stayed overnight in Mr Ayas's daughter's flat, and that on September 19, Victoria spoke by telephone to her grandmother, who was at an hotel in Villars, Switzerland.

The final charge is one of perjury. It is alleged that between June 4 and 14, 1997, having been lawfully sworn as a witness in the High Court action, he wilfully made a false statement, that on September 19, 1993, Mrs Aitken was in Paris and paid FF4,257 in part payment of his hotel bill.

A hearing was provisionally scheduled for January 18 when a date will be set for the trial. Both defendants had their conditional bail extended.



The Rev Dr John Brown, who died yesterday, with Gordon, one of his three sons

Brown's father dies in snow

By GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN cancelled his official engagements as Chancellor and travelled to Scotland yesterday after learning that his father had collapsed and died in the snow near his home.

The Rev Dr John Brown, 84, a retired minister who instilled in his son a Presbyterian work ethic and sense of duty, was returning from a

trip to buy a newspaper when he collapsed near the village of Insh in Aberdeenshire.

A spokesman for the Chancellor said that he had been informed of his father's death while working in his office yesterday morning and travelled immediately to Scotland to be with his mother, Elizabeth, and to make arrangements for the funeral.

His aides said they did not know whether the Chancellor would take part in an Opposi-

tion debate on taxation in the House of Commons tomorrow, or attend the European finance ministers' meeting in Vienna at the weekend.

Mr Brown's brother John, the head of public relations at Glasgow City Council, said last night that his father had been unwell for several years.

"But he always managed to get out and about. My understanding is that he went out as he usually does and collapsed when returning home."

Aid and trade do not mix, says Short

By ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CLARE SHORT delivered a vigorous defence of her aid policy last night after being criticised for refusing to lobby for British business while visiting China.

Twenty-four hours after saying she "didn't bother" to help British firms while on the trip, she was guest speaker of the *Export Times* Exporter of the Year awards at the Savoy Hotel. The International Development Secretary said she was right to separate aid from trade, adding: "We will not use the aid budget to promote individual contracts."

The outspoken minister won backing from Downing Street where the Prime Minister's official spokesman said the previous government had got into "an awful mess" by linking the two, a reference to the Pergau dam saga in which British aid to Malaysia was tied to business contracts.

However, Michael Howard, the Shadow foreign secretary, said any visit by ministers presented an opportunity to press the claims of British firms. "That's what ministers from every other country do. If Clare Short doesn't do that, she is letting Britain down," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*.

Ian Campbell, the director general of the Institute of Exporters, said that while the aid budget should be used to alleviate poverty, the business community expected some return from the donations.

Ministers crusade on duty free

The Government launched a crusade to save duty-free sales yesterday, raising eyebrows in Brussels with a claim that for the British public, cheap alcohol and cigarettes amounted to the most important issue facing Europe this year.

Robt Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told EU foreign ministers that they must come up with an "imaginative and creative" way of relieving the popular practice for travellers due to end in July next year. Ending it would cost jobs, raise travel costs and would make the EU "highly unpopular," Mr Cook said.

Officials from several continental states were incredulous that the Government believed the duty-free question to be more important to British voters than the big EU moves now under way, notably the launch of monetary union next month and the fight over Britain's rebate to the EU budget.

Liver transplant

Surgeons at the Crookwell Hospital in London have saved a woman's life by transplanting part of her daughter's liver, the first time the operation, involving two adults, has been carried out in Europe. Mehry Shojaei, 43, and her daughter Areeza, 19, are recovering after 11 hours of surgery.

Royal vox pop

The Prince of Wales has called for people to give their views on genetically modified food. In the first online forum on his official website he invited responses as to whether GM crops are needed. His website is on <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk>

Gay foster plan

A plan to welcome applications from gay couples as foster carers will be discussed today by Liverpool's social services committee. The chairman, Ron Gould, said the city had a shortage of carers and would look at applications in line with equal opportunities.

High-tech fund

A £15.5 million fund to help British technology firms to develop alongside their Israeli counterparts will be announced by the Government today. The fund, split between the British and Israeli governments, will be matched by industrial collaborators.

Killers guilty

Five men were convicted in Cape Town of the murder two years ago of a British woman, Julia Fairbanks-Smith, and her four-year-old daughter Emma. The dead woman's parents, from West Sussex, have asked for the heaviest possible sentence.

Gummer's belief

The former Agriculture Minister John Gummer has given written evidence to the SSE inquiry that he would not have told the public that beef was safe unless he had been prepared to eat it himself and give it to his children. He is to appear as a witness today.

WE INVEST MORE, YOU SPEND LESS

but don't just take our word for it...

NEC has cracked the code. It's figured out how to delicately balance an equation so that great parts and outstanding performance add up to astonishingly low prices.

Windows International, Summer '98

NEC Direction SM-350B

- Intel® Celeron® Processor 350MHz
- 52MB SDRAM, 100MHz, 512KB Internal Cache
- 4.3GB EIDE Ultra DMA-33 Hard Drive
- 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive
- 14-32x CD-ROM Drive
- ATI Xpert 98 AGP Graphics Accelerator with 8MB SDRAM Video Memory
- Logitech Roller Mouse, Keyboard
- 17" NEC Colour Monitor
- 10.25 disc pitch, 70x resolution
- SoundBlaster® Auzo PCI 5411 Sound Card
- Lucent 151030 Speakers, Headphones plus Microphone
- Microsoft Windows 98™, 10Amen™, ViewScan™, Adobe® Acrobat™ Reader
- Microsoft Word 97, Microsoft Works 4.5, Corel® Draw™ 7 + Great Library 180+ Vistas™
- 90 DAYS NEXT BUSINESS DAY ON-SITE WARRANTY

£799
£972.90

NEC Direction SE-300d

- Intel® Celeron® Processor 300MHz
- 32MB SDRAM, 128KB On-Chip Level 2 Cache
- 4.3GB EIDE Ultra DMA-33 Hard Drive
- 14-32x CD-ROM Drive
- ATI Xpert 98 AGP Graphics Accelerator with 8MB SDRAM Video Memory
- Logitech Roller Mouse, Keyboard
- 15" NEC Colour Monitor
- 10.25 disc pitch, 138x ViewScan™
- Microsoft Windows 98, McAfee VirusScan, Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Desktop Chassis (Mini Tower Option)
- 12 MONTHS NEXT BUSINESS DAY ON-SITE WARRANTY

£469
£585.15

NEC

Ring NEC Direct on 0870 0106322

IRA meets to discuss handing in weapons

By MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA held a rare top-level army convention at a secret location in Co Cavan over the weekend, security sources disclosed last night.

Up to 60 delegates attended the meeting, which discussed voluntary disarmament and reviewed the state of the peace process, sources said. The outcome was not yet clear.

The Good Friday peace accord is in danger of unraveling because David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, will not admit Sinn Féin to government without a down-payment of weaponry. Republicans say that the accord contains no such pre-condition. They see the Unionist demand for decommissioning as a demand for their surrender and a pretext for excluding them.

Two thirds of the convention's delegates would have to support a change in the IRA's constitution to permit weapons to be handed over, and the opposition is substantial.

Twice this year the IRA has issued statements ruling out decommissioning. Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin's president, has said he cannot deliver it.

New smear test could spot all at risk of cancer

By MARK HENDERSON

A REVOLUTIONARY new smear test that could make cervical cancer screening up to 100 per cent accurate has been developed by British scientists.

Researchers at Cambridge University have discovered a way of pinpointing and dyeing abnormal cells in the cervix, allowing experts who scan smears to spot danger more easily.

The test, details of which are published today in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, could save thousands of lives and millions of pounds, doctors said.

Under the new technique, doctors take a conventional smear which is then enhanced to make it easier for screeners to read. Antibodies are used to seek out two protein molecules that are present only in unhealthy cells. A coloured or fluorescent dye is then used to highlight the antibodies, and the potentially cancerous cells to which they have bound.

Early trials of the system — called the "campaign test" after the Cancer Research Campaign which funded its development — have shown it to be 100 per cent effective at identifying abnormal smears.

Present NHS screening, involving a conventional Pap smear every five years, offers 85 per cent accuracy, and even more frequent tests do not improve detection rates beyond 93 per cent.

In a blind trial using 58 slides, the campaign test also detected three abnormal smears that had been missed by the Pap test. When these were re-examined, all three were found to have abnormalities.

The CRC's commercial arm has signed a deal with the American firm ddaDeus to develop the technique and full clinical trials will start in the USA within 18 months. If these are successful, patients in Britain could benefit from the test three years later.

Yesterday Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, welcomed the discovery, and promised to make it available on the NHS if trials were successful. "If we are advised that this is a safer technique to introduce, then we will find the money to do it," he said.

Computers could eventually be used to scan smears in the first instance, saving the NHS millions of pounds.

How clones could be created

By MARK HENDERSON

How would scientists create cloned body parts? The cloning expert Patrick Dixon, author of *The Genetic Revolution and Future*, explained the method accepted by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: "Take an unfertilised human egg and remove the nucleus — this contains the half set of genes that would need another half-set from a sperm for fertilisation. Remove a cell from an adult, and place it against the empty egg. Pass a small spark of electricity across the two cells, fusing them into one."

The egg welcomes the new nucleus from the adult cell into itself, and is fooled by the spark into believing it has been penetrated by a sperm. The egg divides rapidly, creating in vitro a perfect twin of the adult. It could be culled within 14 days for human tissue to be grown in culture in the laboratory.

Where do the eggs for cloning come from? Eggs would be taken from donors, though a woman could use her own eggs as hosts for clones. Dr Dixon said: "There is a shortage of human eggs at present, though there would certainly be a global black market for

them if cloning were legal. This country's laws prevent calling eggs from the ovaries of aborted foetuses or cadavers, but both are options that would be pressed for by some scientists."

You might also not need a human egg. It is effectively a bag for your DNA, and a scientist has already cloned himself using a cow's egg — though the embryo was destroyed.

What type of body part could be grown by cloning? There is no possibility of growing whole organs in the laboratory as they need a blood supply, but specialised tissues can

be grown — skin, bone marrow, and possibly sperm and eggs.

Why is there a need for cloned tissue rather than donor transplants? "There is no danger of organ rejection," Dr Dixon said. Also, suitable donors may not be available at the right time.

Could you clone a dead person? Yes. Dolly the sheep was cloned from frozen tissue after her mother had died.

Could you be cloned without your knowledge or consent? Yes, from a blood sample or donation, or any other tissue sample.

CPS is failing to try criminals, says coroner

A CORONER has condemned the Crown Prosecution Service for failing to bring anyone to trial for a spate of killings.

After handling four cases in short succession where the CPS ruled out any prosecutions, Paul Rose said they should be called "the Criminal Protection Society".

His outburst came after an inquest into the death of 29-year-old man stabbed through the heart in what detectives describe as "an open and shut case". Peter McDonagh was found lying on the kitchen floor with multiple stab wounds received while his family said they were upstairs asleep. Police found one family member was fully clothed in bed, covered in blood which proved to be Mr McDonagh's and yet nobody was charged.

There had been complaints to the police from neighbours earlier in the evening about fighting and noise in the house in South London. When detectives asked the family about the incident they claimed to have seen or heard nothing.

After ruling that Mr McDonagh's death was unlawful killing, Mr Rose, the coroner for the Southern District of Greater London, criticised the CPS in his court at Croydon. He said: "The CPS is doing a disservice by failing to prosecute when it could do so."

He later added: "Coroner's courts are not the place to dispense justice, but too often late cases are dropping in my lap where there should be prosecutions heard in criminal courts. That way guilt or innocence can be established."

"This has happened four times in the last six months. I don't know what is going

Suspects in open and shut cases are not being brought to trial

are not being brought to trial, reports Daniel McGrory

wrong, whether it is new personnel or lack of resources at the CPS, but I thought it was true to let rip. It is failing on its obligations to the public."

Mr Rose is engaged in heated correspondence with the agency over its conduct, and is asking it to review other cases. One involves the death of a man apprehended in a supermarket by security guards. They are alleged to have taken the man to an office where he was sat on and died.

The family of the deceased have asked for the case to be reopened. Mr Rose has written to the Attorney-General urging him to look at the matter again.

Another case troubling him involved a killing "of a domestic nature" where ten months after someone was charged the matter was brought before Mr Rose, who was told by lawyers on the morning of the inquest that the CPS had dropped proceedings.

The fourth case is believed to involve whether a suicide had been helped to die. The coroner was dismayed that the CPS did not understand the "law of attempt". In addition, the CPS lost half the papers in the case.

One senior legal source said: "The question is not just

whether that person did assist in the suicide but whether they attempted to bring about that death and there appeared to be ample evidence they did and yet no charges were brought."

The CPS said last night that it was in correspondence with Mr Rose. A spokesman said: "In the McDonagh case we did take independent advice and that concurred with our solicitors that on the evidence we received there wasn't a realistic chance of getting a conviction."

Mr Rose's criticism came after *The Times* revealed that a woman who accused a man of rape, then saw his trial collapse because of a procedural error, is bringing a test case over the right to sue the CPS.

Tabitha Bryce, who dropped her right to anonymity, wants to challenge the immunity enjoyed by the CPS over the conduct of prosecutions. She is hoping to take the matter to the European Court of Human Rights.

Last year Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, set up an inquiry into the way the CPS makes decisions in the most serious cases in which no charges are brought. It centred on the deaths of Shiji Lapite, a Nigerian asylum-seeker in Stoke Newington, North London; and Richard O'Brien, a 19-stone Irishman in Watworth, South London, after alleged struggles in the street with police.

Lawyers at the CPS last year also raised their own doubts about "the agency's ability to carry out professional obligations and serve the interests of justice" because of cuts in resources.



Zoe McDougall with her parents, Colin and Joanne, is well enough to go home with them

15oz baby makes big progress

By Gillian Harris
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL aged four months who weighed 15oz when she was born 15 weeks early has become one of Britain's smallest surviving babies.

Zoe McDougall, who now weighs 6lb 2oz, spent her first 3½ months in an incubator swathed in a nappy because her parents could not find clothes small enough.

Last week, doctors who have monitored Zoe's progress at Simpson's Memorial Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, since she was born by Caesarean section on July 31, decided she was well enough to go home to Addiewell, West Lothian, with her parents, Joanne 26, and Colin, 28.

Mrs McDougall, who suffered from severe pre-eclampsia during her pregnancy, said yesterday: "When I first saw how small Zoe was I was really upset. It was quite traumatic. The doctors took her straight to an incubator and told us the survival rate for babies that small was low."

"But Zoe was a little fighter and battled through. We named her Zoe because we thought it was a pretty name, but we later found out it means life, which was quite appropriate."

According to *The Guinness Book of Records*, Britain's smallest surviving baby was Marian Taggart, who weighed 10oz when she was born on Tyneside in 1939.

Grandson of ex-PM jailed for drug deal

By Simon de Bruxelles

A GRANDSON of Harold Macmillan, the former Prime Minister, was jailed for four years yesterday after being caught with cannabis worth more than £300,000.

Patrick Heath, 37, said he was forced to take part in the deal to repay a debt to a drugs dealer incurred to finance his heroin addiction.

The deal was foiled when police caught Heath unloading 100kg of cannabis, concealed in bottles of shampoo, from a van outside his home in Redfield, Bristol.

Bristol Crown Court was told that Heath, the adopted son of the late Earl of Stockton's daughter Sarah, drifted into the drugs sub-culture after a troubled childhood.

In his defence, Heath said that Simon Cook, who had hired the van, was his regular heroin supplier and he owed him £1,500. When Cook could not afford to pay, a criminal "farther up the chain" took on the debt.

He told the court that this man, who he claimed to be too scared to name, threatened him with violence if he did not carry the drugs.

Heath initially denied attempting to supply 100kg of cannabis but changed his plea when the judge ruled that he could not use the defence that he had been coerced. He has previous drug convictions. In 1994 he was convicted in India of supplying 5kg of cannabis.

GP faces court over murder charges

By Russell Jenkins

A FAMILY doctor charged with murdering eight patients appeared before magistrates yesterday hours after police exhumed another body.

Officers moved into Dukinfield Cemetery, near Manchester, in the early hours for the remains of Sarah Ashworth, who was 75 when she died five years ago. It was the tenth exhumation. Mrs Ashworth, a widow, had been a company director along with her late husband, Frank.

She was a patient of Dr Shipman, 52, who runs a fundholding practice in Hyde's main shopping street in Tameside.

Magistrates in Tameside later committed Dr Shipman for trial to Preston Crown Court accused of killing three women: Bianca Pomfret, 49, Winifred Mellor and Joan Melia, both 73.

The GP has already been committed for trial on a charge of murdering Kathleen Grundy, 81, a former Hyde mayor, and forging her will in order to benefit from her £300,000 estate.

Dr Shipman will appear at Liverpool Crown Court today for a plea and directions in which a judge is expected to set a date for the trial on these charges.

He was also remanded until January 4 to appear before magistrates on charges of murdering Ivy Lomas, 63, Marie Quinn, 67, Jean Lilley, 59, and Irene Turner, 67.

Freedom for murderer who escaped noose

By Shirley English

A MURDERER who escaped execution and went on to kill a second time was set free yesterday after 40 years in prison.

Donald Forbes, 63, was released on licence from an open prison despite a campaign by his victims' families to keep him inside. It is understood that he will share a flat in Greenwich with his second wife, Alison Crismon, 42, whom he married while in jail.

Forbes was sentenced to life imprisonment twice and was once described as a psychopath by a psychiatrist. His release was recommended by the Parole Board and approved by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary.

He is now serving his life sentence in the community and will be supervised by a social worker. He will return to prison if he reoffends.

Forbes was sentenced to hang in 1958 for the murder of Allan Fisher, 66, a nightwatchman at a Cranston fish factory, who was bludgeoned to death and robbed.

Two weeks before the execution Forbes was granted leave to marry his pregnant girlfriend, Rita McLean, 21. The prison wedding inspired a wave of sympathy which led the Scottish Secretary at the time, John Macleay, to commute the sentence to life imprisonment. The baby died and the couple separated within a year. Forbes was released

on parole in 1970 but within two months had stabbed to death Charlie Gilroy, 22, and seriously injured his brother, Robert, in a pub brawl in Edinburgh. He was jailed for life for a second time. He made several escape attempts, one of which was briefly successful. In 1980 he was given permission to marry his second wife.

For the past two years he has been at Penningthorne open prison, near Newton Stewart, and has had 48-hour leaves in preparation for his release. It is understood that he is now quite frail and suffers from a heart complaint.

Two years ago the Victims of Crime Trust, in London, presented a petition with 400,000 signatures to Downing Street and Buckingham Palace in protest at moves to free Forbes. William Gilroy, 61, brother of his second victim, and Janet Cameron, great-niece of Forbes's first victim, said that the murderer should never be freed.

The campaign to keep him in jail was backed by Roseanna Cunningham, the Scottish National Party's crime spokeswoman. "After one murder conviction there may have been an argument for releasing this man after such a long sentence, but there have been two murder convictions. I don't think he has proved he can be trusted in the wider world," she said.

Hacker broke into 'secure' Crimestoppers phone line

By Paul Wilkinson

AN UNEMPLOYED man gained access to confidential information on a police Crimestoppers phone line in order to demonstrate that the system was not secure, a court was told yesterday.

Malcolm Gilling eavesdropped on 52 messages offering information on a variety of crimes from drug-dealing to theft. Later he demonstrated to reporters how he could listen in to the personal voicemail of a policewoman at her office.

Yesterday Gilling, 47, from Elloughton, near Hull, admitted three charges brought under the Compu-

ter Misuse Act. He told magistrates at Brough in East Riding that he had accidentally discovered how to eavesdrop on computer messaging services and had wanted to draw attention to their poor security. He was fined a total of £300 and ordered to pay £150 costs.

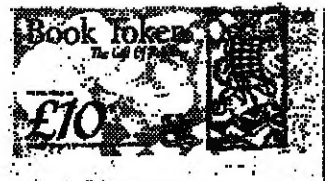
The court was told that Gilling had gained access to the computer controlling the Crimestoppers voicemail system in April. Six days later he invited reporters from the *News of the World* to his home to demonstrate how he had done it. On May 8 he gained unauthorised access

to the West Yorkshire Police voicemail system. He was arrested after the newspaper contacted the police.

Richard Woolfall, for Gilling, said: "Gilling believes that the police have shot the messenger who has tried to help them. He has exposed a flaw in the security and informed them. He did not use the information for his own benefit. At the very least he has alerted the police to the problem."

Afterwards Detective Constable Barrie Jeffrey, of the Crimestoppers unit, said that the system had since been secured.

Who do you know who'd love a Book Token?



The new Book Tokens vouchers

There's nothing like the pleasure of choosing a good book and Book Tokens are the only vouchers you can buy and exchange in virtually every bookshop in the country. You can give exactly the value you want, as Book Tokens start at £1 and go up to £20. And now you can choose from a range of free colourful presentation wallets with their own detachable bookmarks.



THE GIFT OF READING

Hunger striker says he still hopes to live

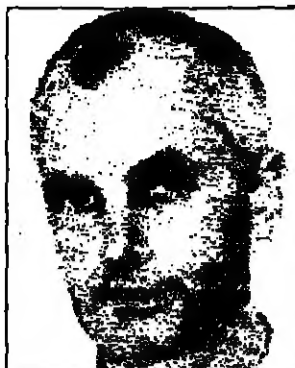
By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE hunger striker Barry Horne is mentally alert and very frightened of dying, according to Nancy Phipps, an old friend who spent 20 minutes alone with him in York District Hospital at the weekend.

Mrs Phipps's daughter, Jill, was hailed as Britain's first animal rights martyr in 1995 when she died under a lorry while protesting at live animal exports from Coventry airport. Brigitte Bardot acclaimed her as the "Joan of Arc of little calves".

Horne, who is expected to die within the week, is demanding that Labour implement a pre-election commitment to support a Royal Commission on vivisection. He has spent 63 days without food. He made a fellow activist Alison Lawson, based in Coventry, his next of kin to ensure that neither of his former wives can order doctors to save his life when he loses consciousness.

Mrs Phipps said: "We have tried so many times to talk him out of it. He thought the



Horne and Nancy Phipps: his spirit was strong, she said

Government would grant a Royal Commission. He didn't think they would let him die. As time goes on he realises.

"He looked terrible. His mind was as bright as ever. His spirit was as strong as ever. His love of life and his sense of humour and everything is still intact. He was lucid, he was cheerful.

"We had an emotional farewell and lots of hugs and he said 'Nancy, I am still hoping. I said we are all still hoping and we are sending positive thoughts. The pain he is suffering

on behalf of the animals is incredible. To me he is so brave because he spent hours and hours on his own, cold. He must be very frightened by now. I used to say to him, 'I don't want you to die'. He said, 'It will be a victory for the animals.'

"He is getting letters from the general public who are sympathetic and think he is wonderful. That cheered him up so much, bless him."

She dismissed reports that animal activists would kill ten vivisectionists to avenge his

death as false propaganda. "It is the dirty tricks brigade," she said, "to divert attention from all the sympathy that Barry is getting."

Horne, from Northampton, is part of a group of Midlands animal activists who include most of the Phipps family, as well as his chosen next-of-kin, Ms Lawson.

Mrs Phipps first met Horne in Bedford Prison when he was among three animal rights activists arrested for raiding a chicken farm. The other men were being visited by their girlfriends, and Mrs Phipps decided to visit Horne so he was not alone. He was arrested in Bristol in 1996 trying to plant fire bombs, and jailed for 18 years for arson and attempted arson.

Ten thousand scientists and animal researchers have been put on alert by the Research Defence Society in case of an upsurge of violence if Horne dies. Other warnings have been sent to 100 pharmaceutical companies, universities and government departments which are also involved in medical research.

Chorus of praise for the unsung art heroes

SIX "unsung heroes" of the arts were yesterday presented with £20,000 each by Ffion Jenkins, wife of the Conservative leader, William Hague.

Ms Jenkins, who made the inaugural Creative Britain awards, sponsored by Prudential, in her role as operations director of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, said the awards were about praising those unrecognised by other major prizes.

"This is about giving all due credit to the unsung heroes. These are people who have dedicated their lives to their individual organisations and displayed an enormous talent and genius for what they do."

One of the winners was the Chicken Shed Theatre, north London, which hosted the event. The others were Mark Stephenson, for his London Musical group; David Boyd of the Bear Initiative in Belfast; Canon Bill Hall, senior chaplain to arts and recreation in the North East; Nadine Senior of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Yorkshire; and Robert Woolf of the Wordsworth Trust.



Ffion Jenkins: award winners display genius, she said

Couple jailed for cat farm assault

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A HUSBAND and wife were jailed yesterday for their involvement in a battle with riot police during a demonstration at a cat breeding farm targeted by animal rights protesters.

Thomas and Anna Monaghan, who have three children, attacked police with stones and tried to tear down a 12ft-high perimeter fence during the 1,000-strong protest at Hillgrove Farm, Witney, Oxfordshire, where cats are bred for scientific research.

The animal rights activists, from Hove, East Sussex, were jailed for 12 months and four months respectively at Oxford Crown Court after they admitted a single charge of violent disorder at an earlier hearing.

The court was told that Thomas Monaghan, 41, was captured on police video hurling stones, making violent gestures towards police, and hitting police riot shields with a lump of wood, and trying to tear down the fence at the farm in April. Mrs Monaghan, 49, was seen hurling a missile over the fence at police.

Lawyer wins case over police forgery

A SOLICITOR arrested and wrongly accused of perverting the course of justice by a corrupt police officer was awarded £35,500 damages against the Metropolitan Police yesterday (Joanna Bale writes).

Julia O'Brien, who used to run her own practice in North London, was accused of smuggling letters out of Brixton prison from a client on remand and sending them to a prosecution witness to intimidate him.

Central London County Court was told that the letters had been forged by Detective Inspector Robert Thomas in

an effort to bolster the case against Miss O'Brien's client, a convicted rapist awaiting trial for two further sex offences. Mr Thomas arrested Miss O'Brien in front of her colleagues at her practice in 1987. She was held at Islington Police Station for three hours and questioned before being released without charge. Miss O'Brien, 53, was told three months later the case was being dropped. She complained to the Police Complaints Authority, which exonerated Mr Thomas, who retired last year on a full police pension.

Cheetah Project Appeal

I wish to donate £..... to the Zoological Society of London, Cheetah Project Appeal. Method of payment (please tick box)

Cheque ☐ Postal order ☐ Credit card ☐

Please make cheques payable to Zoological Society of London

Cheetah Project Appeal, or charge Visa/MasterCard/Amex no:

Expiry date.....Today's date.....

Signature.....

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

To make an instant credit-card donation, phone 0171-449 6459

Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, or send this coupon with your donation to:

Zoological Society of London, Cheetah Project

Appeal, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

Registered charity no 208726. If more than the Christmas Appeal

target is raised, funds will go directly to other conservation

projects run by the Zoological Society of London.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND DONATIONS TO THE TIMES



THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

What, exactly, is the best way to

share

a thought?

Do you post it on your Intranet? Or do you say it on the internet? Should you e-mail it? Or fax it? With so many ways to connect, you need the help of a company that can help you unify them all - Nortel Networks™. A company whose solutions are at the heart of mission critical networks - ranging from the world's largest capital markets, to the world's busiest call centres. We've even connected entire countries through advanced wireless networks. For a few thoughts on how you can unify your networks, call us at 01628 432000, or visit us at www.nortelnetworks.com

NORTEL
NETWORKS™

How the world shares ideas.

You can't put
a price on
our Business
Starter Pack.

IT'S FREE

If you're thinking of going into business for yourself, you'll find our Starter Pack invaluable.

It includes a business planner with profit and cashflow forecasts, on both disk and paper. There's a free copy of the Essential Guide for Small Businesses too.

When you're ready to start up, you'll get discounted banking for three years.

And you'll also get the feeling there's one bank truly committed to the success of your business.

For your FREE pack call

0800 056 0056

R4TM14F, www.lloydsbank.co.uk



Lloyds Bank
Business Banking

Our Business Extra package is available to new business start-ups with an anticipated turnover of under £1 million. Full details are in our starter pack. Some calls may be recorded and monitored. Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3JF.

Media scrabble to reach man buried alive

Peter Foster on the strange case of a fundraiser who went down to the pub three months ago

THE Japanese taste for watching members of the public suffer on television has opened an unlikely avenue to media stardom for an unemployed British man attempting to beat the world record for being buried alive.

Geoff Smith, who yesterday completed his 101st day in a 7ft by 3ft coffin six feet under the beer garden of a pub in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, is fast becoming buried by lucrative offers from Far Eastern television companies.

One Japanese media organi-

sation has offered Mr Smith a new Toyota car if he will grant them an exclusive interview, while another is understood to have paid £1,000 to speak to the father of three who communicates with outside world through a 6ft long tube.

On Boxing Day Mr Smith, who is raising money for the RSPCA, will also appear on the massively popular *The Big Game* show, hosted by the Far Eastern comedian Akhiro Yoshimura. He will compete for star billing with a man from Thailand who is spend-

ing 200 days in a tree. Mr Smith's feat of endurance may strike a chord with Japanese fans of the 1980s television programme of that name in which students were tortured on screen. At its height *Endurance* captured millions of viewers who watched volunteers suffer a variety of inventive tortures including being dragged by elephants over sharp stones, smeared with banana and shut inside a cage of orange-uns, and being hung upside down over a smoking fire while Singapore cockroaches were stuffed down their trousers.

Television crews from all over the world, including Germany, Holland, Australia and America, have come to the Railway Inn in Mansfield in the hope of securing an exclusive with Mr Smith. But like all major stars the former Water Board worker has hired himself a hard-bargaining agent — in this case the pub landlord Spike Hughes.

Mr Hughes now spends most of his time negotiating contracts with foreign televi-

sion companies to raise money for the RSPCA. "We've had calls from all over the world. We looked into hiring a PR firm to negotiate for us but decided to do it ourselves. Geoff is doing this all for a good cause and people will have to pay good money if they want to interview him," he said. The

inspiration for the record attempt came from Mr Smith's mother, Emma, who in 1968 stayed underground for 100 days on the seafloor at Skegness, Lincolnshire. At the time she, too, attracted great attention from newsmen all over the world but her record was beaten in the early 1980s by an

American who lasted 141 days. Mr Smith, 37, is aiming to reclaim the record by lasting for 150 days.

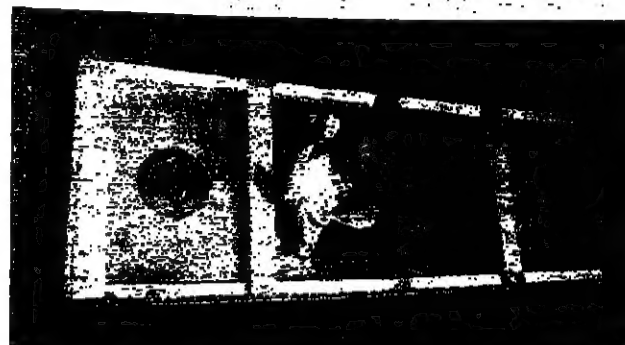
His only entertainments are a 4in television, conversation with pub regulars and the public who pay £1 a time and, possibly the highlight for Mr Smith, the attentions of local

girls who have taken to flashing their breasts at him down his supply tube.

Yesterday Mr Smith, who was unable to talk to *The Times*, which never pays for interviews, was reported to be alive and well and still determined to recapture his mother's world record.



Ace in the hole: Geoff Smith, whose 6ft tube is his only link to the outside and reporters from around the world



Mr Smith's living quarters for the past 101 days

Disturbed architect killed wife he thought was a witch

By SIMON DE BRUELLES

AN ARCHITECT described as "gentle and creative" killed his wife after becoming convinced that she was a witch who wanted to steal his soul.

Maxwell Young, 54, suffered from a transient psychiatric disorder, which meant that 99 per cent of the time he was perfectly normal. Exeter Crown Court was told. He had had two episodes of mental illness, at the ages of 21 and 40, but the problem did not recur again until late last year. Young and his wife, Lyn-

da, had met at Newcastle University and had been married for more than 30 years.

They had a comfortable lifestyle at their cottage at Trewen in Cornwall. Friends said that they rarely argued and spent a lot of time walking in the Cornish countryside collecting wild flowers. But Young became convinced that a sexual act he had performed with his wife six years before had turned her against him.

Mrs Young, 53, a teacher, realised her husband needed help and was driving with him to see their family

doctor when he turned off to Dartmoor. Young stopped at a beauty spot, threw her spectacles out of the car and tried to strangle her with the spring of his anorak. He then stabbed her with a knife kept in the car for picnics before killing her with a granite boulder.

After driving to one of the highest points on Dartmoor he slashed her wrists, but he was found by police and treated in hospital.

Mr Justice Sedley ordered Young to be detained indefinitely at a medium security mental hospital after he

was found not guilty of murder by reason of insanity. "This is not a case for punishment. If it were, then no punishment could possibly be as dreadful as the one you are already undergoing," the judge told him.

"You are in better mental health now and you are aware of what you have done. You know you killed the wife you loved and the wife who loved you."

Angela Roundfield, a consultant psychiatrist at St Lawrence Hospital, Bodmin, said: "On the morning of the killing Young became fright-

ened and said he realised his wife was a witch. He thought she wanted to take his immortal soul. He heard her talking about collecting wildflowers and thought she was also going to collect the souls of relatives."

"He told me he looked at her and could see her eyes had become red. He likened it to the Tory posters of Tony Blair when they depicted him as the devil. These delusions grew from his depression and feelings of worthlessness and guilt."

After the hearing the couple's two sons, Martin, 28, and Matthew, 27,

said they did not want to comment but Detective Inspector Bob Brown, who handled the inquiry, said: "The police see this case in the same way as the family. It is an absolute tragedy for them on two counts. They have lost their mother and now they have to suffer the problems of their father's mental health."

"From all our inquiries Mr and Mrs Young have emerged as a loving, caring family and the sort of people who, other than in these exceptional circumstances, would never come into contact with the police."

New fraud squads to fight NHS swindlers

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of specialist investigators is being created in the National Health Service to clamp down on fraud by staff and patients.

Nobody knows how much fraud costs the NHS, but it is estimated that prescription swindles come to at least £150 million a year. The new strategy aims to reduce that amount by more than half over the next four years.

Jack Gee, head of the new Directorate of Counter-Fraud Services, has already discovered a range of ways in which the NHS has been cheated. The Health Department is to spend £4 million on building regional teams of investigators, some of whom will work under cover.

Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, said that an attempt would be made to measure the extent of fraud accurately for the first time. "The overwhelming majority of patients and professionals would not dream of stealing from the NHS."

"But a small minority are doing just that. Every time they commit fraud, patient care suffers. Those who are exploiting the system are not only cheating taxpayers, they are depriving patients of the care they need."

Frauds have included:
□ a GP who issued prescriptions worth more than £700,000 for residential home patients

□ a dentist who claimed £212,000 over two years by submitting claims for patients who did not exist
□ an optician who claimed for eye tests and the supply of glasses to dead patients

□ a pharmacist who conspired with a GP to claim reimbursements for prescriptions worth more than £1 million
□ a senior hospital registrar who made £46,000 over five years with falsified timesheets

□ a patient who falsely claimed more than £2,500 a year in travel expenses to an out-patient clinic.



Monday the 11th 2 p.m.

MOET & CHANDON
Fondle me 1713

L'art de vivre

upset to talk after the hearing. They tried to hammer a deal...

The swallows are heading south, El Niño's creeping east and the wrong kind of leaves are starting to fall. Relax. Why not winter in a Rover 200 with 0% APR from just £8,995?



If you can rustle up a 50% deposit, we'll rustle up a Rover 200 with power-assisted steering and a year's free insurance.

You have until 31st January 1999 to make up your mind.

Call 0345 186 186 or visit your local Rover dealer for more details.



FREE INSURANCE ON ALL ROVER 200 MODELS EXCEPT ROVER 200 SE, ROVER 211 AND ROVER 200 2000. SUBJECT TO INSURERS' TERMS AND CONDITIONS. EXAMPLE: ROVER 200 SE 200. 0% APR PRICE £8,995 SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. DEPOSIT £4,498. MAKING UP CHEST £4,498. 10% CHARGE. 0% APR. 24 MONTH AGREEMENTS OF 24 MONTH TERM WITH 50% MINIMUM DEPOSIT AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. OFFER ENDS 31.01.99. 0345 186 186.

Glass design offers showcase for the London Mayor

Marcus Binney on Sir Norman Foster's spectacular plan for housing the capital's assembly

DESIGNS by Sir Norman Foster for the home of the new Greater London authority were unveiled yesterday. They promise the most spectacular structure of his career. His version of the new assembly and mayor's office stands on the edge of the Thames, glinting like a giant multi-faceted diamond, opposite the Tower of London. If chosen, the building will unquestionably become one of London's premier landmarks.

Ken Shuttleworth, Sir Norman's partner, who is in charge of the project, said: "The building will provide incredible panoramas, both from the assembly chamber on the entrance floor and the mayor's office at the top. It leans back from the water to avoid casting a shadow over the river."

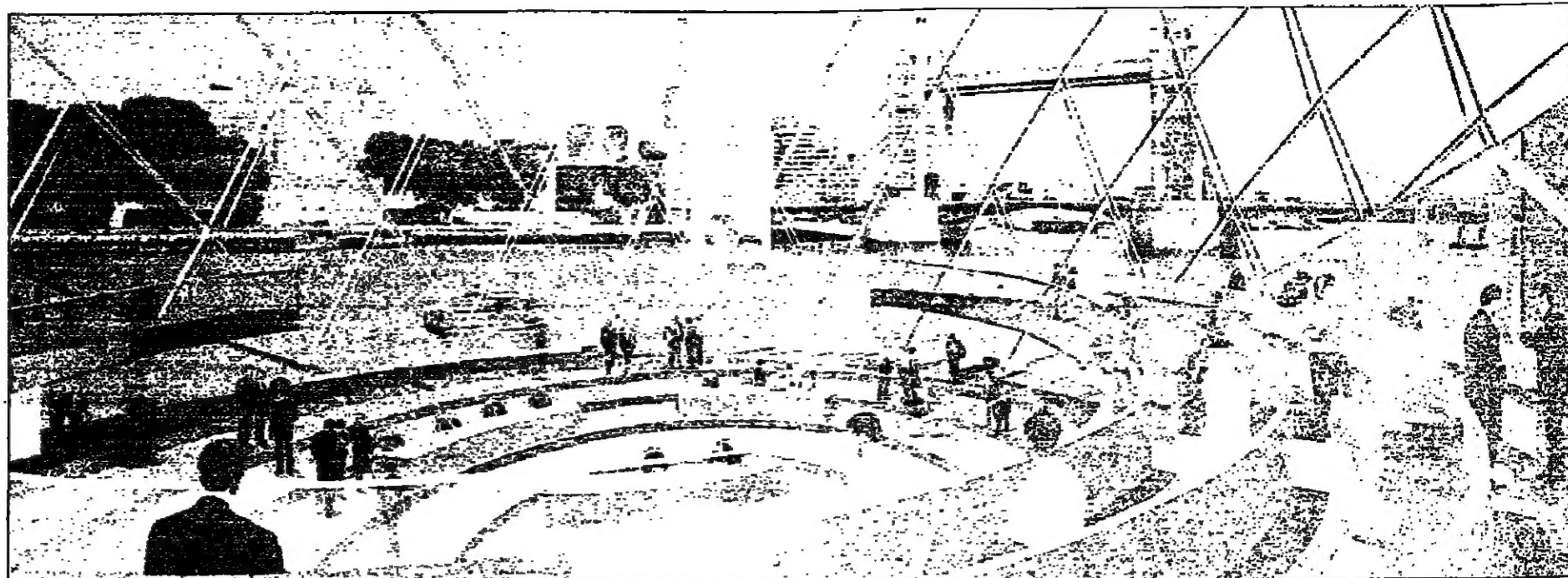
Mr Shuttleworth compared the building to the layers of an onion: the assembly will be set between inner and outer layers of glass and rise through eight storeys, to narrow dramatically to the top. It is a shape that Sir Norman claims

will provide perfect acoustics. The inner layer of glass will stop noise travelling to the offices on galleries above.

Kevin McGovern, the managing director of Markborough, the owners of the 13-acre site between London Bridge station and Tower Bridge, said: "We are offering a hugely bespoke building for rent no higher than for a standard commercial office building. We would spend £40 million on the shell and core, fitting out the chamber and mayor's office would come on top."

He expects the presence of the mayor's office and assembly to lift London Bridge City, a site that has been vacant for ten years, out of the doldrums. Markborough would be providing 200,000 square feet of floorspace for the authority but hopes, as a result, to obtain pre-lets enabling it to build a further 2.7 million square feet of shops, offices and a hotel.

Mr McGovern said: "Southwark Council are very keen on the new employment our



The assembly chamber would be set between two layers of glass rising through eight storeys. Panoramic views of the Thames would include the Tower of London and Tower Bridge

scheme will provide. With a favourable decision soon, we could have the building ready by summer 2000, soon after the mayor is elected."

Londoners are being invited to vote on two competing designs. Sir Norman's and a spectacular conversion of the former Liverpool Victoria

Friendly Society building in Holborn by the avant-garde architect, Will Alsop, featured in *The Times* on Saturday.

Nick Rainsford, the Minister for London, said: "This will be the most important public building in the capital for decades. Both schemes are remarkable. We will take a

15-year lease on the premises. We don't want to commit the new mayor for longer."

The key factor, the rent, remains to be negotiated between the two developers and the Government. Ministers will also have to look very carefully at the costings of two such adventurous designs.

Candidates fear Blair 'death kiss'

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to remain neutral in the contest for who will become Labour's candidate for the Mayor of London amid fears that his endorsement would be the kiss of death.

Downing Street has abandoned the idea of anointing one of the party's would-be mayors after the internal backlash against the "control freak" tendency of Number 10. The decision follows the rows over Downing Street's preference for Alun Michael to be the First Minister of Wales and the power exercised by party headquarters in the selection of candidates for next year's European elections.

It has led to resentment among Labour's rank and file and complaints that they are being ruled by leadership dik-dik rather than internal democracy.

One well-placed source said that for Mr Blair to back a nominee as the party's official candidate for mayor would be "perhaps the quickest way of ensuring that someone doesn't win". Another said that an endorsement from the top would be the "kiss of death".

The stance marks an extraordinary state of affairs for a party leader overwhelmingly elected to the post four years ago and who carried all before him in last year's general election. However, it is also a sign

of the extent to which Labour's grassroots feels taken for granted by Mr Blair's hierarchy.

In the first signs of a pact among the runners, Glenda Jackson, the Minister for London Transport, and the television producer Trevor Phillips are emerging as a possible "dream ticket" to campaign side by side. The camps have already floated the idea of teaming up with each other.

Mr Phillips has all but thrown his hat into the ring for the mayor's job. But few Labour MPs believe that he has a high enough profile in the party to be selected. Friends of the former head of current affairs at London Weekend Television believe that his manoeuvring is as much to do with putting down a marker for the deputy's role as it is a pitch for the top job.

The party shortlist is likely to include Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, and Pauline Green, the London North MEP and leader of the socialist group in the European Parliament.

Nick Rainsford, the Minister for London, and Heather Rabbanis, the chief executive of Lambeth Council, are also expected to enter the contest.

Some senior party figures would like Frank Dobson to stand. The Health Secretary is seen as one of the few party heavyweights who could beat off the challenge of Ken Livingstone. But since the selection mechanisms were agreed last month, which are expected to bar Mr Livingstone from making it on to the shortlist because of his rebellious past, it is argued there is less of an urgent need for Mr Dobson to get involved. He has also made clear that he wants to remain in the Cabinet.

Mr Blair has already taken the first steps back from the contest, suggesting he would like to see a business figure enter, as reported in *The Times* last month.



Phillips: possible dream ticket with Jackson

RSA proposes statue of Christ

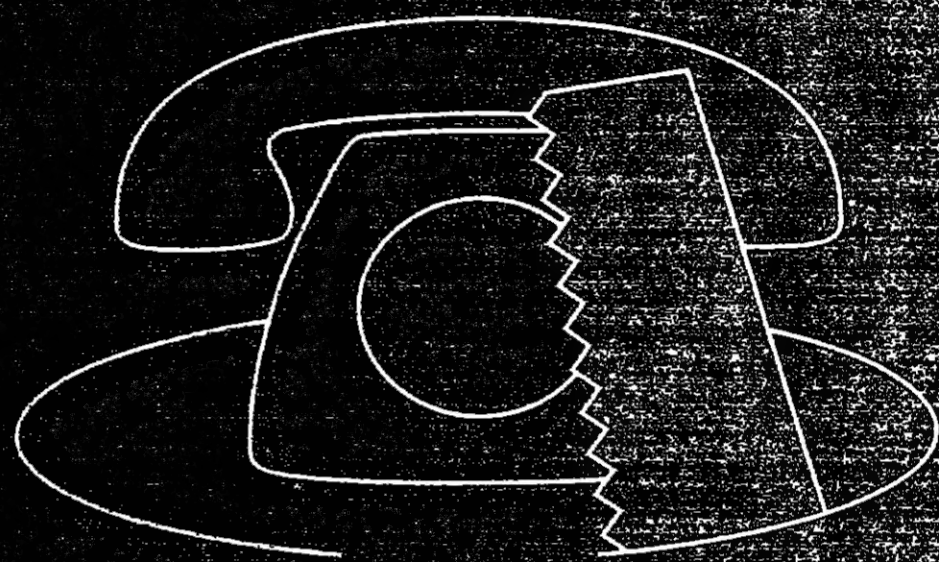
By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

STATUES in Trafalgar Square will be joined by a bronze head sprouting a tree, an inverted plinth and a life-size Christ under plans by the Royal Society of Arts. After four years of consultation, the society announced yesterday that it is turning to avant-garde artists for a temporary exhibition on the square's empty fourth plinth.

If Westminster Council gives permission, a marble statue of Christ, entitled *Ecco Homo*, will be erected on the 24th plinth next spring, commissioned from Mark Wallinger, 39. Nine months later, it would be replaced by an allegorical bronze, *Kingdom of History*, by Bill Woodrow, 50,

featuring a toppled head, representing mankind, pressed down by a book, representing knowledge, bound together by the roots of a tree. In late 2000 there would be a translucent replica of the plinth by Rachel Whiteread, 35, the first woman Turner winner.

The £750,000 exhibition is being funded by the philanthropist Wilfred Cass, and works will later be displayed at Hat Hill Copse, on the Goodwood Estate. Public suggestions of statues of the Queen and Queen Mother were ruled out by Buckingham Palace, while others for Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela and Winnie the Pooh were deemed unsuitable.



Orange Everyday 20 could mean it's time to say goodbye to your BT phone

What you get for a total of 50p per day

	Orange Everyday 20	BT
Number of minutes of national off-peak calls	20 minutes every day	5 minutes weekdays only 7 minutes weekends
Line rental	✓	✓
Caller display	✓	✓
Call waiting	✓	✓
Call divert	✓	✓
Conference calling	✓	✓
Busy facility	✓	✓

Orange Everyday 20 gives you 20 minutes of off-peak calls on the best performing digital mobile network in the UK, to anywhere in the country for 50p a day. It's ideal for people who want a phone to use at evenings and weekends. Call 0800 80 10 80 for details or visit www.orange.co.uk

Prices based on standard network recommended rates, excluding discounts or optional schemes and promotional offers. Orange Everyday 20 includes 20 minutes of off-peak calls per day. Peak rate calls cost 40p/minute. Any additional off-peak calls cost 10p/minute. Orange off-peak period is 7pm-7am. BT off-peak period is 6pm-6am. Connection to Orange is subject to status and a one-off connection charge of £35. Connection to a new BT line is subject to a one-off connection charge of £116.35.

Clampdown on gazumpers will cost £400 a sale

By Rachel Kelly and Frances Gibb

THE cost of selling a home would rise by about £400 under government proposals to speed up house-buying and clamp down on gazumping.

The Government wants vendors to provide an information pack, including a survey of their property, for prospective buyers.

Hilary Armstrong, Housing Minister, said: "We need buyers and sellers to be better prepared from the start. Our package of measures should take the stress out of homebuying and will help to avoid miseries like gazumping and problems in chains."

Opponents said that the proposals, which do not apply to Scotland, would drive up costs unnecessarily and could reduce the supply of properties onto the market.

The measures may become compulsory through legislation. But Ed Nally, chairman of the Law Society's conveyancing and land law committee, said: "Including a survey in the seller's pack will cause needless expense for the seller, especially as it is unlikely to be relied on by a mortgage lender or buyer."

Mr Nally urged the Government to adopt the Law Society's conveyancing code, which includes a legal information form setting out essential information for buyers and what

the property price includes. The consultation paper published yesterday was drawn up after a survey commissioned by the Government of more than 2,000 buyers and property professionals. This found that in England and Wales it typically takes eight weeks from acceptance of an offer to exchange of contracts. Most problems occur in this time.

The proposals do not apply to Scotland, where the seller invites offers and a legally binding contract is created as soon as one is accepted. In Scotland it takes an average of only four weeks from acceptance of an offer to exchange.

The disadvantage of the speedier system is that 25 per cent of buyers have to move into temporary accommodation and a further 14 per cent have to arrange bridging loans because of timing differences between sales.

The consultation paper said that it was these practical difficulties, rather than legal reasons, which had stopped the Scottish system becoming common practice in Britain.

The proposed seller's information pack would include a survey; copies of title documents; replies to standard preliminary inquiries made on behalf of buyers; replies to searches made of the local authority; copies of any plan-

ning, listed building and building regulations consents and approvals; a draft contract; and guarantees for work carried out on the property.

The "homebuyer's survey", costing £300 to £400 for the average £60,000 house, would provide a three-page report on the structure and roof, giving warning of dry rot, for example. A full structural survey runs to about 60 pages and costs nearly twice as much but is not commissioned by most buyers.

The Government's main aim is to reduce the time between making an offer and completing a sale. Ministers want banks and building societies to make faster mortgage offers, aiming to process 80 per cent of mortgage applications within two working days. Lenders would be expected to supply a title document to the seller's solicitor or conveyancer within five working days of a request. Local authorities would be expected to reply to requests for a standard search within ten days.

The consultation paper suggests that insurers be encouraged to develop new policies to help to protect buyers and sellers from gazumping and gazundering.

Geoff Hoon, Minister of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department, which jointly



The Government's main aim is to cut the time from acceptance of an offer to exchange, which averages eight weeks against four weeks in Scotland

launched the paper yesterday, said ministers were undecided about whether to make the changes compulsory. "One of the areas we are consulting on is whether or not it will be sufficient to approach the changes on a voluntary basis, with all the players in the system bidding themselves to observe best practice."

The Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers said

the proposals would not guarantee faster house-buying. "They may even slow things down when people, worried about the results of the limited survey, commission a more detailed one," said Michael Day, of the society. Gazumping would not stop, Mr Day said, because ministers had not proposed a lock-in agreement between the buyer and seller. The Consumers' Association wel-

comed the proposals. Ashley Holmes, head of legal affairs, said: "They should make home-buying easier, quicker and hassle-free." He said that the seller's pack, including survey, would be a "price worth paying for added confidence and greater peace of mind". Comment on the proposals is invited until the end of March.

Leading article, page 19

Home truths show world of difference

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

BUYING and selling a house in England and Wales is slower than in many other countries, but also cheaper, according to research behind the proposals.

It takes an average of eight weeks from acceptance of an offer to exchange of contract — the period most prone to delays. From offer to completion takes 10-12 weeks. In other countries, the average transaction period was nearly seven weeks, ranging up to 16 weeks in France.

Agreeing contract terms can take up to eight weeks in England and Wales, but no longer than four weeks elsewhere. The average times do not include the time taken for sellers to provide detailed disclosures, which in some countries is done up front

when the property is marketed — as is now proposed for England and Wales.

The main reasons why exchange of contract was so much quicker in other countries were: the use of conditional contracts, in which the buyer must obtain a mortgage within a set time; more involvement of agents in the pre-contract process; many inquiries made after the contract, with a right for the buyer to cancel if the search discloses problems; and detailed disclosures requirements imposed on the seller.

The typical cost to buyers in England and Wales is £1,060, and for sellers it is £1,400. In France, it is common for the buyer to bear all costs, including the estate agent's commission.

THE ESTATE AGENT

David Parry is a 52-year-old partner of the estate agents Cluttons Daniel Smith in Maidstone, Kent, and has been selling houses for the past 34 years (Rachel Kelly writes). He broadly welcomed the changes outlined in the Government's consultation paper and says they will have far-reaching consequences for his business. "We have got to speed up the timescale between offer and exchange," he said. "These proposals put the emphasis and the cost on the seller. They need to be mandatory, not voluntary, to work, otherwise sellers won't spend the money. And buyers' offers should be under binding, akin to the Scottish method." He said some agents might offer to pay for the cost of a homebuyer's survey. "This may mean that we get a two-tier market of agents, those who can afford to carry the extra costs of paying for a survey, and those who can't." He added that the extra work putting sellers' packs together would also lead to increased fees.



THE GAZUMPING VICTIM

Scott Waring, a 31-year-old advertising executive, was gazumped on a £220,000 flat in Holland Park, West London. He had offered the full asking price for the two-bedroom property, had his offer accepted and had instructed his solicitors. He was gazumped, not once, but twice. Both parties agreed on going to sealed bids. Mr Waring offered £245,100 and won the bidding. However, he decided to pull out of the deal, despite having incurred expenses of £300. "I felt I had been mucked around with," he said. "Ultimately, I was paying 10 per cent over the asking price. The agents had used our bid as an underbid to get a higher bid. It was a frustrating, stressful, painful experience." He pointed out that although the proposed reforms would speed up the house-buying process, thereby reducing the possibility of a second buyer coming in with a higher bid, they did not make gazumping illegal.



THE SURVEYOR

Paddy Stewart-Morgan has worked in the area around Bath for 30 years. He welcomed the extra work that the proposals would mean for his profession (Rachel Kelly writes). In future, sellers will have to include surveys in the information packs they provide for buyers. "The problem with these proposals is that they are geared around the average property price of £67,000," he said. "But at the top of the market a homebuyer survey would not be enough. These are individual country properties and most buyers would require a full structural survey which costs up to £1,500." The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors estimates that 2,000-3,000 more surveys would need to be trained to cope with the extra demand. Mr Stewart-Morgan said that the fact that surveyors could be liable to legal action from either the vendor or buyer might lead to higher charges as professional indemnity premiums soared.



350MHz Processor

DVD

the latest standard for games and movies

Scanner

add photos to your work

Colour Printer

TV Tuner

TV and teletext on your PC

8Gb Hard Drive

all the storage you'll ever need

64Mb RAM

January SALE



The Elite Connect TV P350 is an all-singing, all-dancing multimedia extravaganza, including TV and teletext capabilities, scanning, printing and internet access.

Why wait for January? Enjoy this amazing system at a rock bottom price throughout Christmas!

£999 exc. VAT

£1173.83 inc. VAT

Tel: 0181 208 4770

Fax: 0181 208 4493

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS

London: Appleby Way W9 2JL Tel: 0181 208 4770

Leeds: 9 Great Northern Road, Shipley LS1 1JH Tel: 0113 219 3400

New opening hours Monday - Friday 10am - 6pm

Saturday 10am - 4pm and Sunday 11am - 4pm

MESH Elite Connect TV P350

350MHz Processor

8Gb Hard Drive

64Mb RAM

17" SVGA 280mm Monitor

8Gb Hard Drive

17" SVGA 280mm Monitor

8Gb Hard Drive

17" SVGA 280mm Monitor

8Gb Hard Drive

17" SVGA 280mm Monitor

8Gb Hard Drive

17" SVGA 280mm Monitor

8Gb Hard Drive

17" SVGA 280mm Monitor

Finance Options

6 months interest free credit*

10% deposit then pay the balance after 6 months

(0% APR) Total: £1173.83

Pay over 3 years* 10% deposit and then pay

£38.38/month (19.9% APR) for 36 months

Total: £1499.00

OR 10% deposit, pay nothing for 6 months, then

£41.50/month (26.9% APR) for 36 months

Total: £1611.38

All MESH computers are Year

2000 compliant, custom built

and shipped with keyboard,

mouse and Windows 95

FREE lifetime

Telephone Support

5 Year

Service

FREE software: Award winning

Lotus SmartSuite

MESH computers plc

www.meshplc.co.uk

Girl, 16, challenges Sainsbury sacking

By A Correspondent

A 16-YEAR-OLD cashier sacked for allegedly helping fraudsters to steal luxury goods from a supermarket was yesterday believed to be the youngest person to take her case to an employment tribunal.

Celeste Shirley, an A-level student at Richmond College, London, is alleging wrongful dismissal and racial discrimina-

tion after she was dismissed from her Saturday job at Sainsbury's in Chiswick, west London, in July.

Jason Galbraith, representing the supermarket, told the hearing in Woburn Place, London, that "on the balance of probability" Sainsbury's had acted correctly. He said the transactions involved three separate debit or credit cards and Sainsbury's discovered that each transac-

tion had been put through a till on which Ms Shirley was working, and that each time the credit card details had been entered manually. After investigating the matter, police decided to take no action.

But Jez Khan, for Ms Shirley, said Sainsbury's investigation was flawed and that one of the stolen cards was also used at another Sainsbury's store. The tribunal was adjourned until April.

Code aims to make war games more civil

By Russell Jenkins

A SAFETY code for historical re-enactment societies that fire muzzle-loading cannon and muskets was published yesterday.

The guidance from the Health and Safety Executive, described as a "highway code" for Roundheads and Cavaliers, follows a series of accidents, including one earlier this year in Yorkshire in which a woman cannon operator lost her hand.

Members wearing uniforms and costumes depicting the English and American civil wars and the Napoleonic era were at Houghton Hall, in Lancashire, for the launch of the booklet. Her Majesty's explosives inspectors stood by as a uniformed gun crew fired a Napoleon muzzle-loading cannon according to the revised guidelines.

Gary Lang, an HSE explosives inspector, said that there were now about 80 societies putting on historical re-enactments, involving between 25,000 and 30,000 players. The booklet is aimed at getting across "best practice" and setting out legal requirements.

A spectator was injured two years ago in Humberston when a cannon's powder keg exploded. Another member of the public was badly injured when an artillery piece was fired at close range.

Inspector Ken Lane, explosives liaison officer for West Yorkshire Police, said: "Although these accidents do not occur in great numbers, when they do happen they cause serious injury."

HARRODS WILL BE
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
FROM NOW
UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

(FOR THOSE
WHO CAN'T MAKE IT
WE WILL ALSO BE
OPEN FROM MONDAY
TO SATURDAY.)

From now until December 21st all our
departments will be open on Sundays from 11AM to 5PM.
So take advantage of the extra opening days to enjoy
Harrods festive 'Christmas Creations', and to find absolutely
everything on your Christmas list.

Harrods

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7NL. Tel: 0171-759 1234

Satellites spot volcano ready to erupt

Nick Nuttall on a breakthrough that could lead to the development of a global early warning system

A VOLCANIC eruption has been successfully predicted with the use of satellites. Researchers disclosed yesterday that they had detected the impending eruption of Popocatepetl, in Guatemala, a week before it began.

The team, using satellites with infra-red detectors, picked up a heat signal on May 13 indicating that hot magma was bubbling towards the surface. The volcano erupted on May 20 sending an ash cloud over Guatemala City and the airport 13 miles away.

Luke Flynn, a volcanologist at the University of Hawaii, told a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco yesterday: "We've never had a way to remotely monitor volcanoes for impending eruptions before."

Andrew Harris, based at the Department of Earth Sciences at the Open University in Mil-

ton Keynes, who was a member of the team, said: "We saw it coming from space. To date this has not happened before."

The breakthrough, by British and American scientists, may lead to the establishment of a worldwide automatic forecasting system for the 600 active volcanoes and many others considered to be potentially active.

The team also detected the eruption of a volcano in the remote Galapagos islands three hours before it began on September 15. The early warning gave experts on the ground time to move wildlife. The signals were picked up from the satellites by Chris Okubo, also of the University of Hawaii.

The team also spotted the eruption of Popocatepetl, near Mexico City, from space. The satellites detected a moderate eruption on the morning of November 24 this year. Local

ground-based teams recorded the same event and sounded the alarm one minute earlier. But many parts of the world where volcanoes could burst into life are too treacherous to have trained staff in place. Dr Harris said: "Some places are just too poor and have too many volcanoes."

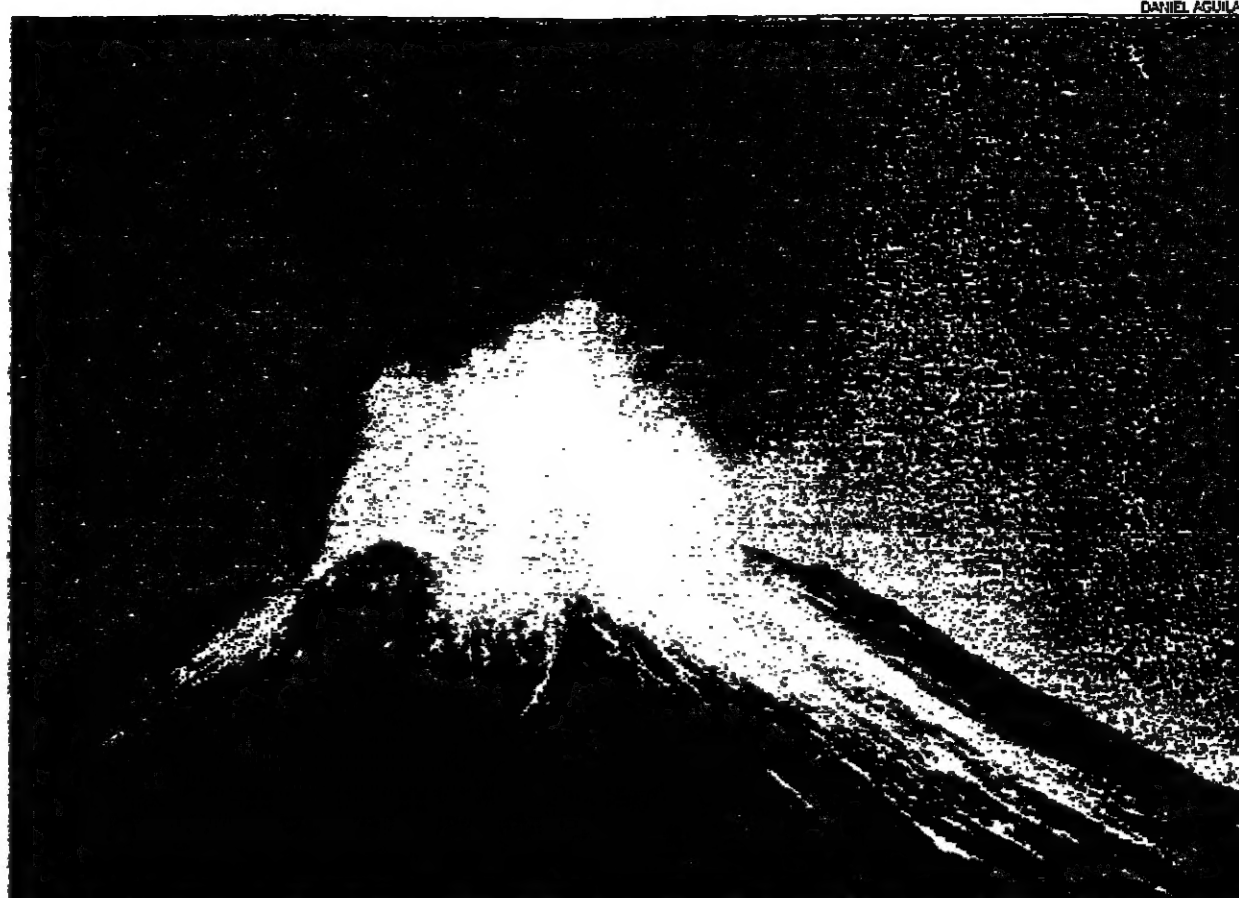
The satellite system, even if it spots an eruption only as it occurs, may give emergency services vital hours or days to get people cleared from an impending lava flow.

The breakthrough has been made possible by the recent launch of two geostationary satellites owned by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The craft can provide images of a given volcano or area of land every 15 minutes. Recent computer developments mean that the images can be rapidly analysed for hot spots. The researchers are posting the results on the University of Hawaii's Hot Spot Image Internet site.

Dr Harris said that about seven satellites, able to see heat in the right waveband, would be needed to create a global volcano early-warning system. "At the moment we are only really covering the Americas and the Caribbean."

About 360 million people live on or near dangerous volcanoes, from Etna in Sicily to Mount St Helens in Washington State. In recent years volcanoes have killed about 25,000 people.

Aircraft are also at risk. In



A time exposure showing the eruption of Popocatepetl in Mexico last month after it was detected by satellites

1982 a British Airways Boeing 747 nearly fell from the sky over Java after volcanic dust got into the jet engines.

The quest for an early warning system for volcanic eruptions has been given more urgency after indications that rising sea levels because of global warming may make volcanoes more active.

Bill McGuire, of University College London, and his col-

leagues have found that 12,000 years ago, when sea levels rose by 38ft in two centuries, volcanic activity surged. Rising sea levels trigger landslips and weaken the rock, releasing pressure, they suspect.

Some researchers have tried to develop early warning systems that pick up microquakes inside a grumbling volcano. Others have been developing systems that detect land

movement and bulges on the Earth's surface in advance of an eruption.

John Murray, also of the Open University, has placed reflectors on Mount Etna that bounce radar beams back to satellites. Any movements caused by an impending eruption would be automatically detected.

Dr Murray said that he believed several different tech-

niques would be needed for a truly accurate early warning system.

"No one method will be 100 per cent reliable. Seismic activity is good on a scale of a few days, and the movement of the ground may give you a warning months in advance. Detecting heat may give you an early warning a few hours or days in advance that the eruption is about to happen," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug raid police make 70 arrests

More than 70 suspected drug dealers were arrested and large quantities of heroin seized after a three-day operation involving more than 800 officers from Lothian and Borders Police. They raided nearly 100 houses and also seized weapons, cash, stolen property and other illegal drugs and drug-using material.

Police said that by yesterday morning they had made 71 arrests as well as "significant recoveries" of heroin, cocaine, LSD, cannabis, amphetamines and Ecstasy across the force area.

Crash damages

The High Court ordered a man jailed for causing death by dangerous driving to pay £335,000 to his victim's family. Justin Carroll killed Richard Maher in Essex in 1993. Mr Maher's wife, Deborah, had a son five months later.

Major's new role

John Major has become president of the National Asthma Campaign, spurred by memories of the distress the illness caused his mother. Mr Major hopes to bring influential people together to raise funds and raise the charity's profile.

Boy skier dies

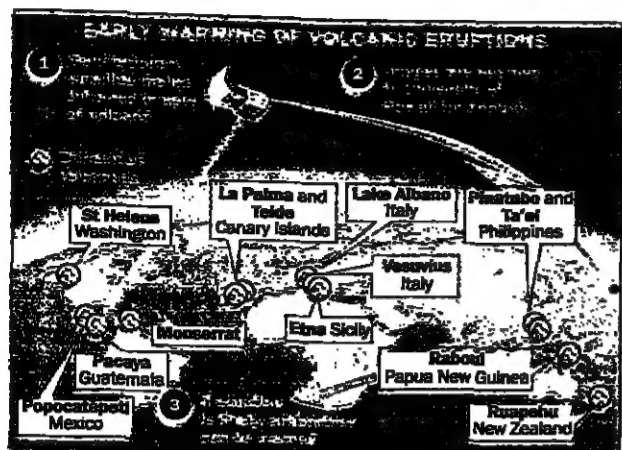
A 14-year-old boy injured on an artificial ski slope on Saturday has died. Antonio Dispenza was taken to John Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford after he crashed into safety netting at the Wycombe Summit Ski Centre in Buckinghamshire.

Bad back payout

A nurse who injured her back while trying to support an unconscious patient won £80,600 damages at the High Court. Phaedra Spillett, 32, made the claim against her employer, Oxford NHS Trust in Bexley, southeast London.

Special branch

A gang of Christmas tree thieves were caught by police who followed a pine needle trail. Three people were arrested after 13 trees — one decorated — were found at a house in Workington, Cumbria, 100yds from the scene of the theft.



Prickly patients show lust for life

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

INJURED or weak hedgehogs released into the wild after convalescing in captivity stand an excellent chance of survival, scientists have found.

Many perform heroic feats of long-distance travel after being released: one covered more than three miles on Jersey; two others swam across the River Stour in Devon. Even though many have little or no experience of life in the wild, nearly all adapt quickly.

Hedgehogs make up 20 per cent of the wildlife casualties treated annually by the RSPCA. Thousands of others are taken in by individual carers. Pat Morris,

senior lecturer in zoology at Royal Holloway College, University of London, who led the research team, said yesterday: "Our findings show that rehabilitating hedgehogs, contrary to what some have claimed, is a very worthwhile exercise."

A report on the research in the latest issue of *The Veterinary Record* describes the survival rate among rehabilitated hedgehogs as "very high, compared with, for example, the minimal success of oiled seabirds after they have been cleaned".

For the research, 33 rehabilitated hedgehogs were released on Jersey and in Devon and Suffolk. Twenty-five were juveniles that had never lived alone, never had to find their own food or, in some cases, never ventured outside a cage. Each

hedgehog had a tiny transmitter glued to its spines, enabling its movements to be tracked.

Thirty survived for three weeks, at least 23 for four or five weeks and 17 were known to be alive after seven weeks. Others were probably still alive but had moved out of radio range or shed their transmitters.

Three of the hedgehogs were killed by traffic and three others were eaten by badgers.

The hedgehog, *Ermineus europaeus*, is still plentiful, with an estimated breeding population of about 1.5 million. If juveniles survive their first winter they can expect to live for three or four years.

Rider took tot of sheep dip

BY GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A HUNT official who drank sheep dip instead of whisky after a friend confused the bottles was recovering in intensive care yesterday.

Raymond Shiels swallowed a mouthful of the brown liquid proffered as Jed Forest Hunt passed through the Borders town of Jedburgh on Saturday.

He had a series of violent convulsions and fell from his horse. His wife Moira, who had been following on horseback, found him writhing in a lane. At Borders General Hos-

pital his heart, lungs, liver and kidneys stopped working and he was put on a life-support machine while doctors established what he had drunk.

Mrs Shiels said yesterday: "There were about 30 of us waiting while the huntmen and hounds were searching for a fox. Raymond took a drink and immediately spat it out but he must have swallowed a little. After about ten minutes it was obvious he wasn't well. He became increasingly ill and seemed to be hallucinating."

Doctors who treated Mr Shiels, a farmer and National Hunt trainer, said that he would probably have died if he had swallowed more of the poison. Sheep dip is a chemical form of organophosphate derived from nerve gas, which attacks the central nervous system.

The drink came from Robin Grievie, a shepherd. Mr Shiels's father, Fraser, said: "The lad was terribly upset. I think he carried the sheep dip in a bottle in his Land Rover rather than carry it in a big container. Raymond knew the chap very well and was sure it was not intentional." Police are taking no action.

£80 rtn

go

munich

venice

go somewhere new

Go now flies to Munich and Venice. Fly before 11 Feb and the standard fare which requires a 2 night minimum stay is guaranteed at £80 return including taxes, every seat, every flight, every day.

go more often

Go also flies to Edinburgh five times every weekday and our service to Bologna has doubled.

go and change your mind

Flexible fares are also available on all flights and allow change or cancellation up to two hours before the flight.

go 0845 60 54321

the new low cost airline from british airways book online at www.go-fly.com
london • edinburgh • rome • milan • bologna • venice • copenhagen • lisbon • munich

HE'D RATHER CONVICT
THE WRONG MAN THAN
ADMIT SHE'S RIGHT.

TONIGHT
8:00pm

THE BILL

www.itv.co.uk

Labour to keep right to select in second chamber

THE Government is to stamp on the option of a wholly-elected second chamber when it announces a royal commission on the reform of the House of Lords next month.

In a move both to underline the democratic supremacy of the Commons and to allow figures of eminence and expertise to continue to be appointed to play a role in Parliament, it will make plain its preference for a part-elected, part-selected second chamber when it sets the terms of reference for the commission.

Life members are to be asked to accept a retirement age to prevent the second chamber becoming overcrowded, according to senior ministers preparing the Government's submission to the review.

The so-called interim chamber that will operate after the scrapping of hereditary peers' voting rights but before the new House comes into existence will have more than 600 members.

Because the new House will be at least one third elected, ministers are counting on a retirement limit of 65 or 70 for the non-elected members to prevent it becoming unmanageable. Retired life members would still have "club rights" but would not be able to vote.

Some of the elected members are likely to come from the Scottish parliament, the

Ministers will tell commission on Lords reform that elected-only body is out, says Philip Webster

Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies, and any future regional assemblies.

The Bill abolishing the voting rights of hereditary peers, and the White Paper setting out plans for the interim chamber, appointing the royal commission, and listing the Government's initial thoughts on the second stage of reform, are now expected to be published in January.

Ministers are this week considering a shortlist of names to head the commission, which is expected to be told to report within 18 months, maintaining at least the possibility that the second stage could be legislated upon before the next general election.

Senior ministers say they are working on the assumption that Conservative peers will back the Cranborne agreement and not stand in the way of the Bill getting on the statute book some time next year. The Prime Minister will ap-

point some 55 life peers next summer to bring Labour's strength up to that of the Conservatives if the "Cranborne agreement" goes through. Under the proposal, to be included in an amendment to be put by Lord Weatherill, one tenth of hereditary peers will survive in line with their present strength in the Upper House. Some 42 Conservative hereditaries will stay on, 28 cross-benchers, three Liberal Democrats and two Labour.

That will leave the Conservatives on 215, Labour on 160, the cross-benchers on 148, and the Liberal Democrats on 48. The "deal" envisaged Mr Blair appointing enough peers to give Labour equality with the Tories and Paddy Ashdown is expected to argue for a larger Liberal Democrat representation.

Big doubts remain over the likely shape of the second chamber. There is almost certain to be an independent appointments commission to oversee the selection of nominated members. But political leaders are still expected to nominate large numbers of their existing life peers to serve in the new second chamber.

William Hague has ordered the Tory group investigating reform to speed up its work and report by March, months ahead of schedule. The likely outcome is a proposal which leaves no place for hereditaries.



Miss Boothroyd said the plans to reduce MPs' time at Westminster might call into question their dedication

By MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

Speaker attacks plan to cut hours

BETTY BOOTHROYD, the Speaker, has attacked a proposal to reduce the amount of time MPs spend at Westminster.

The report, compiled by the all-party Select Committee on modernisation of the House, which is chaired by Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House, proposes an overhaul of the parliamentary calendar. Its main recommendation is that Thursday morning sittings should begin at 11.30, rather than 9.30am, and finish at 7pm, instead of 10pm.

The report claims this would allow MPs more time for constituency work. But

Miss Boothroyd claims the proposals would damage the effective running of the House. She says in a letter to the committee that the report contains "little recognition of the adverse implications which it carries for me, for members, for the public and the administration of the House".

"The public image of the House also needs to be considered," she adds, "in particular what impact the change

would have on the public's perception of members' dedication to their representative duties."

The Speaker is critical of most of the arguments put forward by the committee. She believes the changes would mean an increased financial burden to the taxpayer, prove unattractive for many MPs as well as restricting access to the House.

"The committee said that if the House of Commons backed the idea the experiment could begin in January.

make her other obligations as Speaker — meeting dignitaries, ministers and official entertaining — more difficult. The committee's report acknowledged her comments and thanked her for "her assurance that she and the staff would seek to operate to the best of their ability within any changed pattern of working".

It rejected Miss Boothroyd's suggestion that the Commons meet for a number of five-day weeks with an occasional whole week when the House would not sit, saying the Thursday morning option had more advantages.

The committee said that if the House of Commons backed the idea the experiment could begin in January.

Literacy hour pupils 'make fast progress'

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

PRIMARY pupils who have a daily literacy hour improve their reading levels by up to a third more than those who do not, research published yesterday shows.

A pilot study shows that pupils who were well below the average reading level for their age made three years' progress in just two years when they received the methods of teaching promoted in the National Literacy Strategy. Last September, primary schools were urged to adopt the NLS and were sent guidelines on how to teach reading by sounding individual letters in words — the phonic approach.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, yesterday said too many still ignored phonics. In this year's national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds, 175,000 children — more than one in three — failed to reach the required standard in reading. Half of 11-year-olds also have serious problems with writing.

Announcing a further £50 million in grants to schools to continue training for the strategy, Mr Blunkett told a literacy conference in London that they were foolish to ignore it. "The secret is to accept what works, whether it upsets ideological convictions or not, and just do it." The report by the National Foundation for Educational Research states that "pupils in general made greater than expected progress over less than two years' involvement" in the project.

Blair must change his tune after row over Euro harmony

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown urgently need to rethink their European policy. They have badly mishandled the recent row over tax harmonisation and closer integration — in the process playing into the hands of the Eurosceptics.

The Government has made two strategic errors. First, ministers have pretended that monetary union need not involve closer integration in other areas, such as fiscal policy and co-ordination of economic approaches. Second, they have talked as if the structure of Europe will somehow stand still

while Britain decides whether to join the euro. Gordon Brown has behaved as if nothing important will be decided by the 11 euro states and that Britain will continue to have a big say. Both assumptions have been contradicted over the past week.

Germany and France have made plain what has always been implicit: that a single currency involves closer economic co-ordination and the removal of distortions. This does not mean a single income or corporation tax rate across Europe. What has been proposed is a clearer set of rules to deal with

tax havens, hidden subsidies and the like, as British ministers have been discussing.

However, the Government has been trapped in the sceptic rhetoric of the past decade. Each issue has been defined in absolute rather than relative terms. Everything has been presented as London versus Brussels. But talk of using the veto is a response, not a policy. Such attitudes make much harder the compromises that are a necessary part of a European Union of 15, let alone one of 25-plus likely in a decade.

Mr Brown overreacted when Os-

car Lafontaine first mooted the idea of closer harmonisation. The Chancellor's defiant "no" sounded all too reminiscent of the late



Peter RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

Thatcher era. Senior officials then sought to depict Herr Lafontaine as a rogue elephant, speaking for himself rather than the new German coalition, especially when he

floated the idea of majority voting on tax policy.

However, Herr Lafontaine was quickly backed by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, while Dominique Strauss-Kahn also endorsed a shift away from unanimity on tax policy. As so often, Britain has underestimated the closeness of France and Germany, and, in particular, of their two finance ministers.

Consequently, the British Government has been left on the defensive, making general threats but appearing ineffective. Ministers decided to weather the storm before counter-attacking and they were

of course, helped by the Tory disarray over Lords reform. Robin Cook has been trying to regain the initiative in the past two days, arguing that Britain is not isolated and that many other countries oppose tax harmonisation.

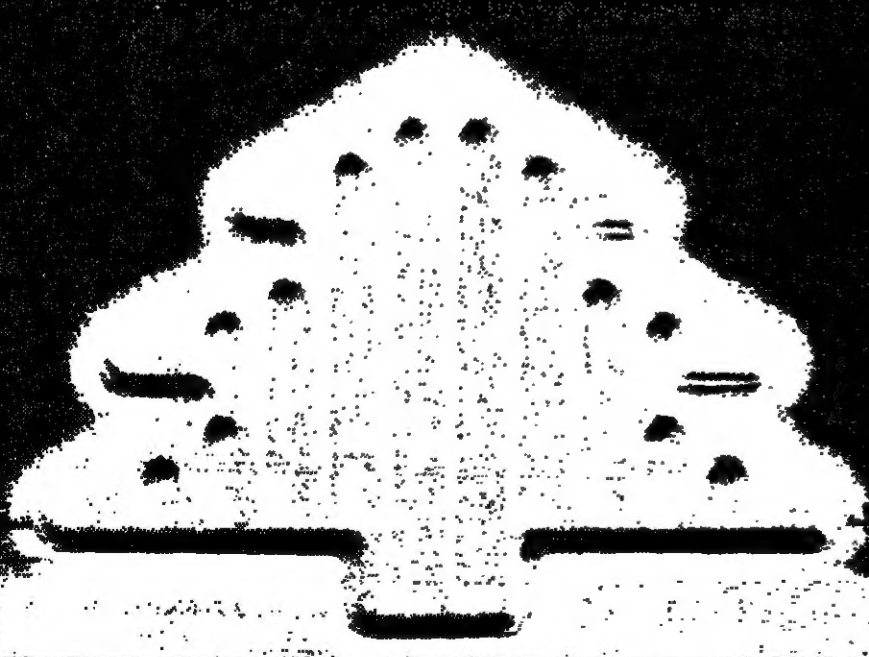
The Government, therefore, has an answer to the more alarmist stories of the past ten days. But ministers cannot rely just on negatives, if, at the same time, they are to retain influence in Europe. Mr Blair is aware of the danger and wants to avoid the isolation of the final Tory years, notably during the BSE crisis. He accepts the need to

be actively involved in Europe. No wonder that Mr Blair recently instructed ministers to spend more time getting to know their European counterparts.

The latest row also threatens Mr Blair's gradualist strategy, of hoping that increased use of the euro from next January will lead to increased public acceptance of the inevitability of Britain joining. That can no longer be assumed.

Mr Blair is going to have to argue more positively for closer British involvement in Europe and for accepting that a single currency means more integration.

LAST CHRISTMAS,
38,800 FAMILIES
LIT UP WHEN THEY SAW
OUR ENGINEERS



Everyone likes to be warm and cosy at Christmas time. But if your heating broke down on Christmas Day or Boxing Day, how easy do you think it would be to find someone to help? Extremely difficult, we'd say — unless you've got Three Star Service Cover from British Gas.

Last year, between 22nd December and 28th December, our engineers visited 38,800 customers whose heating had broken down.

Our Priority Helpline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and we normally provide same-day service — all from under £11 a month. It's a small price to pay for peace of mind.

If you'd like the reassurance of Three Star Service Cover, just call today quoting APCG. And in case we don't see you on the day — Happy Christmas!

Three Star Service Cover 0345 754 754

British Gas

Order now to get a great PC package for Christmas - nothing to pay for 3 months!



It isn't the season to be jolly... it's the season to be wealthy because we're offering instant 0% PC package financing. Software, digital cameras and printers with nothing to pay for 3 months! So to make absolutely sure you don't miss out on a PC for Christmas, call Dell, the world's largest direct PC manufacturer*, and make it a very Merry Christmas.

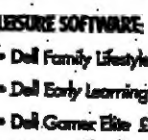
PC MANUFACTURER
OF THE YEAR '98
PC HOME MAGAZINE
OFFERS END 13 DEC 98



Kodak DC210+
Digital Camera
£249 (£410.00 inc. VAT)
incl. Accessory
Manual/Duplicate
Software



Epson Color
Stylus 640
£149 (£175.00 inc. VAT)



LEISURE SOFTWARE:
• Dell Family Lifestyle Bundle: £49 (£57.58 inc. VAT)
• Dell Early Learning Essentials: £49 (£57.58 inc. VAT)
• Dell Game Elite: £69 (£81.06 inc. VAT)
• Dell Classic Challenges: £49 (£57.58 inc. VAT)

ALL DELL DIMENSION MULTIMEDIA DESKTOPS INCLUDE:

Intel® 440BX AGPset, 512KB Internal Cache, 17" Colour SVGA Monitor (0.28 dot pitch, 15.9" Viewable Area), 4.8x Toshiba DVD-ROM with software decoding, Mid-sized desktop or mini tower chassis, Microsoft® Windows® 98, US Robotics 56 Kbps V90 modem with 1 month BT internet trial (exc. phone charges).

DELL DIMENSION V400

• Intel® Pentium® II Processor 400MHz
• 64MB High performance 100MHz SDRAM
• 8.4GB ATA-33 Hard Drive
• Integrated ATI Rage Pro Turbo 2x AGP 8MB video
• 2 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA shared Expansion Slots
• Integrated Yamaha XG 64 Sound and Harmonic Kernel
195 Speakers
• Microsoft Home Essentials™ '98

£1,049 (£1,273.70 inc. VAT)
MS 3 YEAR PERSONAL FINANCE: £49.82PM APR 26.9%

DELL DIMENSION XPS R450

• Intel® Pentium® II Processor 450MHz
• 128MB High performance 100MHz SDRAM
• 17GB ATA-33 Hard Drive
• ATI XPERT 980 3D AGP Video Card
• 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA shared and 1 AGP Expansion Slots
• Turtle Beach Montage II ASIO 320 Voice PCI Sound Card
and Active Loudspeakers ACS 295 Speakers with Subwoofer
• Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition V2

£1,349 (£1,626.20 inc. VAT)
MS 3 YEAR PERSONAL FINANCE: £62.57PM APR 26.9%

DELL INSPIRON™ 3200 233 XT

• Mobile Intel® Pentium® II Processor 233MHz
• Intel® 440BX Chipset
• 13.3" XGA (1024x768) TFT Screen
• 32MB SDRAM (Upgradable to 144MB)
• 512KB High Performance Level II Cache
• 3.2GB ATA-33 IDE Hard Drive (Upgradable to 6.4GB)
• Module 24 x CD-ROM and 3.5" Floppy Disk Drives (DVD Optional)
• Integrated 16-Bit Sound Master Pro-Compatible with internal microphone and Speakers
• 128 kb High Performance Memory video with 2MB VRAM

SAVE
£100

• Integrated communication port (IrDA 1.1 compatible)
• 2 Cartridges PCMCIA type II Slots
• Lithium Ion Battery
• Designed with 2 Inches Zoomed Video Support
• USB Port
• Microsoft Windows 95
• Microsoft Home Essentials™ '98

£1,149 (£1,391.20 inc. VAT)
MS 3 YEAR PERSONAL FINANCE: £53.67PM APR 26.9%

THE EASY WAY TO PAY*

Dell Financial Services Repayment example:
Enjoy the benefits of a Dell PC by opting for our deferred payment scheme. PC Cash price £1,273.70 (inc. VAT & delivery). Pay whole balance within 3 months of purchase date interest free, alternatively pay 36 monthly payments of £47.02 APR 26.9%. Total amount repayable £1,764.72. Finance subject to status.

TALK DIRECT TO
0870 132 222

www.dell.com/uk/today

DELL

Nazi stadium gets £200m facelift

Germany wants to turn the 1936 Olympics venue into a home for the 2006 World Cup, writes Roger Boyes

HITLER'S rundown Olympic stadium in Berlin is to be given a £200 million facelift to prepare it for Germany's bid against Britain to stage the 2006 World Cup.

The stadium, surrounded by Third Reich statues glorifying the Aryan male, remains historically tarnished and controversial. The key question after yesterday's decision is: how much of the Nazi era should be allowed to stay in the remodelled football arena?

Outside, the stadium still looks in reasonable shape although shabbier than in 1936, when it was the focus of Hitler's attempts to turn the Olympics into a symbolic contest between Nordic athletes and black "sub-humans". The success of black American athletes, including Jesse Owens,

the sprinter, upset the calculation and Hitler refused to present the medals.

Inside, the stadium is in poor condition. The masonry from the supposed Thousand-Year Reich has become soft and crumbling. Steel props hold up the outer walls. Water leaks everywhere. The stadium, built between 1934 and 1936 by Werner March, was "improved" by Hitler's architectural adviser, Albert Speer.

To prevent the stadium from looking too modern — much of the design had been copied from the Americans — Speer insisted on shell lime-

'2,000 boys died in 1945 trying to win the stadium from the Russians'

stone to cover some of the concrete. The result is that the walls are now cracking. Before every football match or musical event, engineers make special drillings to make sure that nobody is hit on the head by masonry.

The renovation, the plans for which were published yesterday, includes sinking the floor by about 9ft and building a new roof. The terraces will be remodelled and the colour scheme will give a more sympathetic, less totalitarian tint to the building. The big argument, however, is about what should be preserved.

The statues will stay in the redesign. They include Arno Breker's *Das Antlitz* and other imposing muscular figures. Even after a facelift, the stench of the Nazi era is likely to hang around the terraces. A plaque was recently set up in the stadium honouring Carl Diem, the chief organiser of the 1936 Games. As Berlin crumbled in

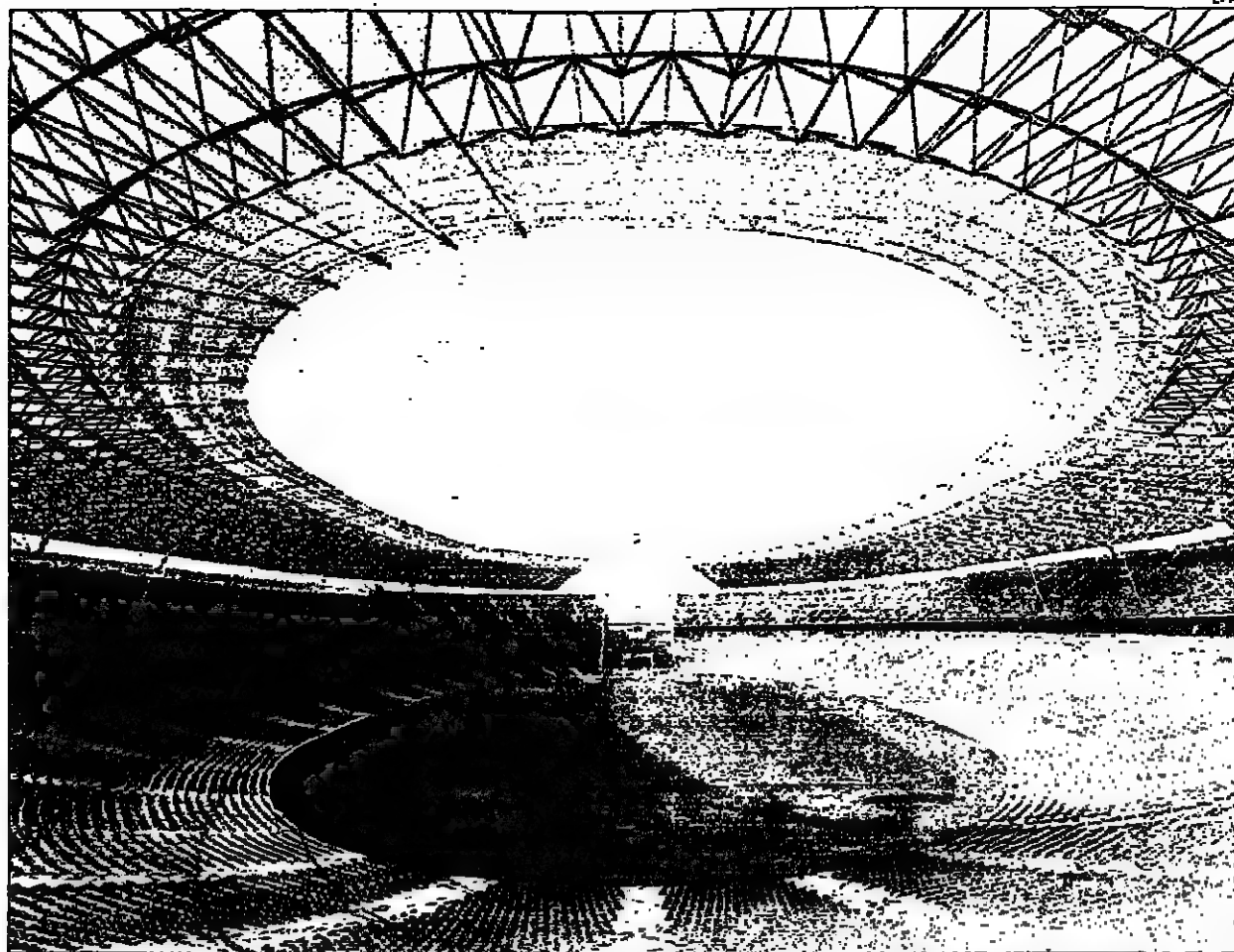
April 1945, Diem put together a Hitler Youth unit that tried and failed to win back the stadium from Soviet soldiers. About 2,000 teenagers died in this pointless action. Leni Riefenstahl's documentary film, *Olympia*, turned the stadium into a symbol of unstoppable National Socialism.

During the war, part of the stadium was used by the Blaupunkt company to make weapons. Later it was used as a tobacco store and after the war became part of the complex that served the British military Government. Len Deighton and other thriller writers have

pinpointed the Cold War headquarters of British military intelligence as having been in the offices that border the stadium. They are almost certainly correct.

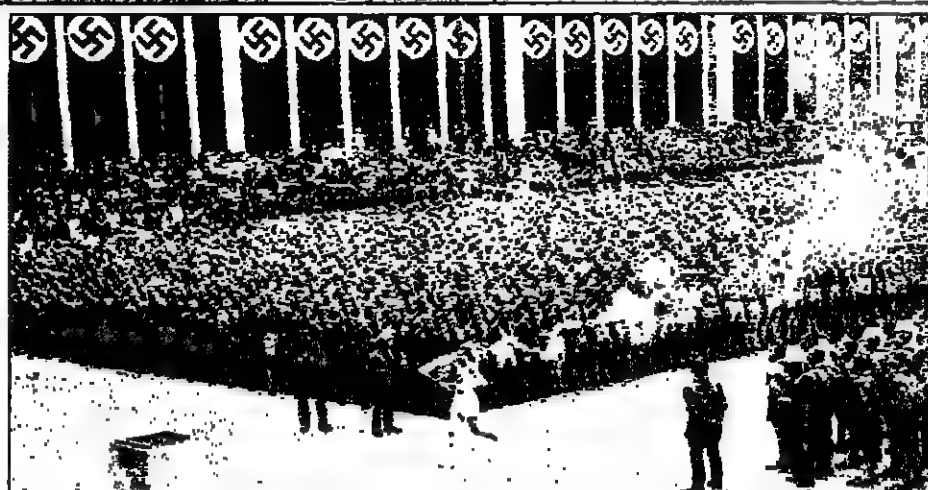
The Bonn Government and the City of Berlin will each meet about 18 per cent of the cost. The rest will have to be won from private investors. The opening match and the final, according to German plans, would be played in the Berlin stadium.

There is still disagreement, however, about who really enjoys the support of the international football community for the 2006 bid. The Germans are sure that they have UEFA blessing and are therefore the European candidate. Britain believes that the contest is still open. The way that the Berlin stadium is restored may play a role in the final decision. The dark history of the arena was a factor in Berlin's failure to win the bid for the Olympic Games in 2000.



An artist's impression, above, of the proposed rebuilt stadium and, right, the Olympic flame is carried past massed Nazi Youth at the start of the 1936 Games

□ Vienna: An "alarming" rise in racism has taken place in Europe over the past decade, with one third of Europeans now admitting to being racist, an EU-backed anti-racism watchdog reported. The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia compared opinion polls conducted in 1989 and last year on people's attitudes to minorities groups. (AFP)



'Baron' held in stolen art inquiry

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

POLICE investigating a lucrative trade in antiquities plundered from ancient Sicilian tombs said yesterday they had discovered that the gang controlling the racket was led not by Godfathers but by "citizens above suspicion", including academics, respected collectors and a self-styled baron.

Police officers in Catania, in Sicily, recovered tens of thousands of "priceless archaeological artefacts" after raids on houses belonging to the ring.

"We are looking into how many more they sold on the international art market," a police spokesman said. He said there was evidence that some had been bought by foreign museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York — in many cases the antiquities had carried fake authenticity certificates.

Maria Grazia Branciforti, Superintendent of Fine Arts for the Catania region, said of the hoard: "The objects are worth millions of pounds. But they also have an inestimable cultural value to Italy." The haul included Greek and Roman jewels, mosaics, coins, statues, vases and amphorae.

Those held include "Baron" Vincenzo Cammarata, 50, a landowner. Giacomo Mangano, 71, professor of ancient history, and Salvo Di Bella, 53, professor of political geography, at Catania University. □ Reggio Calabria: Luxury villas belonging to Giuseppe and Antonio Piuromalli, two brothers of a southern Italian Mafia family, have been seized by the police, an official said here yesterday. Giuseppe, one of the 30 most wanted mafiosi in Italy, is on the run. Antonio is in prison. (AFP)



Karl Albrecht's Discus Throwers at the stadium

Cook seeks EU drive to foster human rights

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, has called on his European partners to do more to promote human rights around the globe.

In a joint letter with Joschka Fischer, the new German Foreign Minister, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Mr Cook has proposed an annual EU human rights report to keep track of European initiatives and monitor countries whose rights record cause concern.

They suggest that such a report could begin next year — the first probably coming out in June at the time of the EU summit in Cologne. Both Mr Cook and Herr Fischer, the leader of the Greens in the German coalition, have made much of the need to give foreign policy an ethical dimension. The aim would be to set up an EU equivalent of the US State Department's annual review of human rights around the world.

The two men sent a letter last week to Wolfgang Schäfer, the Austrian Foreign Minister, asking for a formal launch of the idea at the EU Vienna summit this weekend.

Britain is to mark the anniversary on Thursday with ceremonies, lectures and grants to support publicity and education programmes promoting human rights.

The highlight of Britain's celebrations will be a national commemorative service in Westminster Abbey on Thursday in the presence of the Princess Royal.

Mr Cook and senior officials of Amnesty International and the United Nations Association will attend the one-hour service, and Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian writer and human rights campaigner, will give an address.

Clare Short will represent Britain at a special session of the UN General Assembly in New York, and Joyce Quinn, Foreign Office Minister for European Affairs, will attend a ceremony in Vienna for EU leaders on the eve of the European summit.

Mr Cook is using the occasion to underline his commitment to an "ethical" foreign policy — a controversial and much criticised plank of the Foreign Office's mission statement, issued when Labour came to power.



Joschka Fischer, left, and Robin Cook, who propose an annual EU report to monitor rights worldwide



Five jailed for flag attack on Rock

Gibraltar: Richard Sáenz de Sotomayor, 33, leader of Spain's extreme-right Alliance for National Unity, and four followers were jailed yesterday for five days for tearing down the Union flag at the Moorish Castle here and raising the Spanish colours (Dominique Searle writes).

The five men admitted damaging the flag and causing a breach of the peace, but said they did not recognise the court's jurisdiction. They will be jailed in the basement of

the tower they occupied on Sunday, Gibraltar's only prison. During the hearing, two female supporters were removed from the public gallery by police who feared violence.

A sixth man, Imigo Pérez de Herrasti Urquijo, received a suspended sentence for handing out leaflets and acting in a way likely to cause a breach of the peace. Bruno Navarro Rousseau Durmaet pleaded not guilty to a similar charge and was remanded in custody for a trial today.

STANDARD LIFE BANK™

This year savers have moved over £1.7 billion into Standard Life Bank.

(Now that's an amazing rate!)

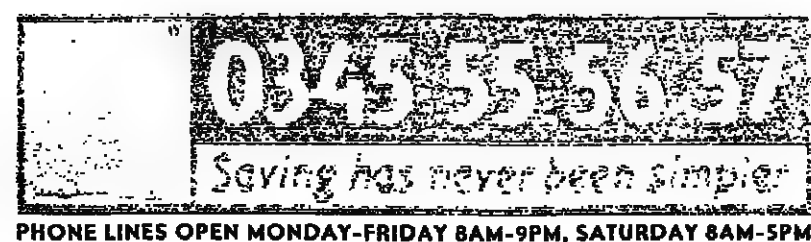


UP TO
7.05%
*GROSS P.A./AER

Since our launch in January 1998 we have been staggered by the sheer level of customer response. We are, quite simply, Britain's fastest growing telephone bank.

The reason is undoubtedly the outstanding rates of interest we consistently offer our customers for both personal and business accounts.

To find out more just talk to your Financial Adviser or call us direct - it only takes a few minutes.



PHONE LINES OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-9PM, SATURDAY 8AM-5PM

Terms and Conditions available on request. *Gross p.a. - the rate of interest paid yearly without deduction of lower rate tax to eligible non-taxpayers. The rate quoted applies to balances on Personal 50 Day Notice Accounts of £250,000 and over. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year. Rates correct from 8th December 1998. Rates may vary. A penalty equal to 50 days' gross interest on the amount withdrawn will be charged if you do not give us 50 clear days' notice of withdrawal. Standard Life Bank Limited is a company registered in Scotland (number SC173685). Registered Office Standard Life House 30 Lothian Road Edinburgh EH1 2DH. Telephone calls will be monitored and recorded to help us improve customer service.

Anwar driver retracts claim of sex crimes

By DAVID WATTS, ASIA EDITOR

A KEY witness in the central allegations against Anwar Ibrahim, the Malaysian former Deputy Prime Minister, denied yesterday that he was ever sodomised by him.

Onlookers in court gasped when Azizan Abu Bakar, who once was Mr Anwar's driver and who is a prime witness against him, apparently destroyed one of the main planks of the Government's case.

In earlier evidence to the court, he had said that he was sodomised repeatedly by Mr Anwar, who had forced him into the crime.

When the trial resumed yesterday after the weekend, however, Mr Azizan agreed with Christopher Fernando, for the defence, that it had never happened and that was why he had continued to visit Mr Anwar after the offence was alleged to have taken place.

Mr Anwar has said all along that there was a high-level conspiracy to ruin his political career, but even Mr Fernando appeared taken aback at Mr Azizan's reversal. He repeated the question in English and it was translated into Malay: "I put it to you that Anwar Ibrahim did not sodomise you and that is why you visited him between 1992 and 1997."

Mr Azizan replied in the affirmative. Defence counsel decided to let his response rest as a key piece of evidence and asked no further questions. There was no response from the prosecution. If the defence is successful in discrediting Mr Azizan's evidence, it could prove a difficult obstacle for the prosecution.

Mr Azizan is central to some of the most serious charges of misconduct against Mr Anwar. He is on trial on four counts of abuse of power. He will be tried later on another charge of corruption and five charges of illegal sex acts.

Mr Anwar denies any wrongdoing. Mr Azizan's accusations related to events in 1992 when he was employed by Mr Anwar's wife, Wan Azizah. Mr Azizan said last week that shame had kept him from making public Mr Anwar's alleged repeated homosexual acts. He spoke about them eventually when prompted last year by Ummi Hafida Ali, who has accused Mr Anwar of sleeping with her brother's wife.

Leading article, page 19



Leigh-Anne Goodman, 21, whose life-support machine was turned off after she suffered a fall at a rural racecourse in Queensland on Saturday. She had wanted to be a jockey since she was three, but finally took it up when she was 19, becoming Australia's first woman Aboriginal jockey.

Aboriginal woman jockey dies after fall

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S first female Aboriginal jockey died yesterday after her family asked doctors to switch off her life-support machine.

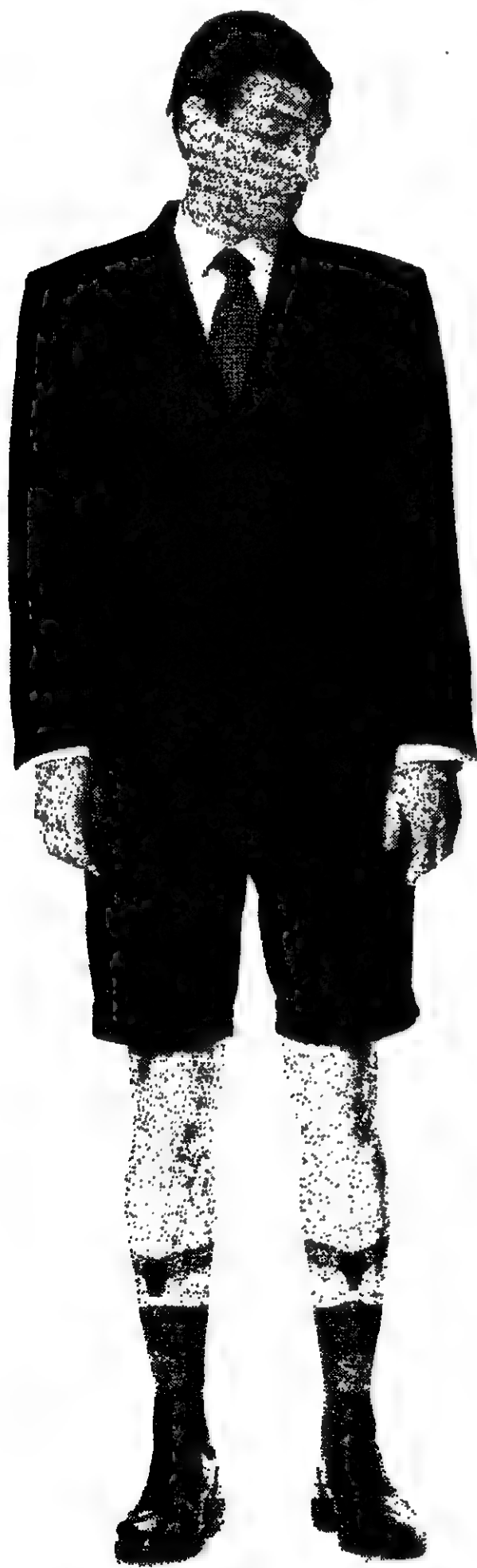
Leigh-Anne Goodman, injured on Saturday in a fall at a rural Queensland race-track, was flown to Brisbane for treatment but never regained consciousness. A single mother, she would have been 28 on New Year's Day.

Her father, Mark, stood by her bedside as the instruction was given yesterday and said: "She discussed it with us a few times and she made me promise I wouldn't go soft if the hard decision had to be made. She didn't want to just exist." Two other Queensland jockeys have died in the last two years after

spending long periods on life-support machines. "She didn't want her son to remember her like that," her sister, Germina, said. Ms Goodman's death was as courageous as her career, which she pursued despite the efforts of her father to dissuade her.

She first said she wanted to be a jockey when she was three, but until she was 16 her father thought that he was winning the battle to keep her out of the saddle. She took up hairdressing, but when she was 19 became a jockey. Riding on a rural track is generally accepted to be more dangerous than on the big metropolitan courses.

Racing, page 47



No contract from Cellnet
Business First will ever be the
wrong length for you.



Contracts ranging from one to five years - with loyalty discounts. Just one example of how Cellnet Business First gives you the freedom to manage your company's mobiles as you want.

For more information on our individual solutions for business communications, call the number below or visit the Cellnet Business First website.



Make managing your company mobiles simple.

business
FIRST
cellnet

Call Cellnet now on 0800 132 490 or visit www.cellnet.co.uk/business.

cellnet business first

cellnet

Available to Cellnet digital customers from participating Service Providers. Subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Minimum 12 month contract. Telecom Securitor Cellular Radio Limited.

Cricket in drive for non-whites

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE governing body of South African cricket is to force provincial sides to select non-white players.

The decision by the United Cricket Board (UCB) to require all 11 provincial teams to include at least one "player of colour" in their sides from next season is aimed at breaking a "glass ceiling" on the selection of non-white players.

The move came after sports administrators were shocked by the fielding of an all-white team for the first Test against the West Indies, which South Africa won, the weekend before. The all-white side provoked allegations of racism among the selectors.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the UCB, said yesterday: "We need to widen the racial profile at the top of the game."

The board also decided that at a national level, "people of colour should be selected for all future squads chosen to play international matches" with immediate effect. "We say 'should', not 'must', because we obviously have to ensure that the national side is selected on merit," Dr Bacher said.

"The idea is to unlock the talent that is being held back at provincial level," a UCB insider said yesterday.

Melbourne aims for tallest tower

Melbourne: An Australian builder won government approval yesterday to build a 120-storey skyscraper that would qualify for the title of the world's tallest building.

Bruno Grollo's A\$1.5-billion (£550 million) plan for a 1,850ft tower was named the winning bidder by the Victoria state government for a vital part of redeveloping the Melbourne docklands.

Mr Grollo said construction could start within a year and be completed in a further five. Grollo Tower would be 330ft taller than the current tallest building, the Petronas Towers in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. The plans include a 320-bed luxury hotel, 450 apartments, shops and offices. (AFP)



An artist's impression of the Melbourne tower

GIVE THEM
THE GIFT OF
HINDSIGHT.



The ability to capture special moments on film, and to be able to look back on them in the years to come, is a gift that anyone would appreciate. Choose the incredibly lightweight and simple to use Canon EOS L1, in its elegant black or silver casing, and it will be even more appreciated. Special features include a large aperture, high performance 28mm F2.8 lens, automatic exposure, automatic flash with red eye reduction, easy drop-in film loading with automatic film advance and rewind, and date/time/caption printing. The price includes a carrying case, remote controller, film, APS film holder and the Canon book of Photography. £119. Subject to availability.

Photography Department, Lower Ground Floor

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Limited, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7NL
Telephone 0171 730 1234

Yeltsin wields axe to show he is boss

FROM ANNA BLINDY IN MOSCOW

BORIS YELTSIN emerged from hospital yesterday, sacked four members of his administration and returned to his sick bed to continue recuperating from pneumonia. He also brought the Justice Ministry and the state tax police under his personal control.

Valentin Yumashev, the President's Chief of Staff and a key member of his inner circle, was the most surprising dismissal. Yuri Yarov, Mikhail Komissar and Yevgeni Savostyanov were also dismissed from Mr Yeltsin's team.

Mr Yumashev is said to have taken part in planning the restructuring of the presidential team along with Taty-

ana Dyachenko, Mr Yeltsin's daughter. He is considered likely to remain an adviser. His replacement is Nikolai Bordyuzha, a KGB veteran, who will combine his new duties with his current job as secretary of the advisory security council. He has been instructed to restructure the administration and get tough on high-level corruption.

Mr Yumashev, a former journalist who was the ghost-writer of Mr Yeltsin's two books, *Against the Grain* and *President's Notes*, is said to be close to Boris Beresovsky, Russia's most influential tycoon. He was behind the recent confirmation of the worsening



Nikolai Bordyuzha, left, a KGB veteran, was made Chief of Staff to Boris Yeltsin, centre, at work in the Kremlin yesterday, within hours of the sacking of Valentin Yumashev, right



state of Mr Yeltsin's health and it was he who announced that the President would be cutting back his workload.

Leonid Radzikhovsky, a political columnist, said: "Yumashev has been trying to leave the presidential administration for a long time. In his hands the administration has

lost the influence it once had and is no longer a second government, as it was under Anatoly Chubais, but is what it should be - the President's inner office."

But Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Prime Minister, accused Mr Yumashev's administration of "stagnation

and lack of initiative". Dmitri Yakovlev, Mr Yeltsin's press spokesman, said the President sacked the four because of "failure to take serious steps to combat political extremism and corruption". Last week *Kommersant Daily*, in an article, said: "By all indications the President's staff no longer

have enough political will to support the President... In this situation either Yeltsin or his entourage will have to go... Whether Yeltsin will be able to hold on to power until 2000 will largely depend on his ability to compel his staff to work for him."

Meanwhile, the pro-reform party Yabloko seems to have done well in Sunday's city elections in St Petersburg, according to early results. The Communists are lying second. The result bodes well for the presidential hopes of Grigori Yavlinsky, Yabloko's leader.

□ Fewer Russians: If Russia's population decline continues at the present rate it will have halved by the middle of the 21st century. Plummeting birth and soaring death rates have meant a decline of 4.2 million people between 1992 and 1997. The present population is 150 million.

Russian malaise, page 18



Cantona and Mookie take a walk on the wild side with Jacques Villeret, who plays a fiend in one film scene

Cantona kicks the football habit and tackles chimp film

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ERIC CANTONA, former footballer, philosopher and aspiring film star, breaks the actor's rule about not working with children or animals tomorrow when he appears in his first big film role, opposite a talking chimpanzee.

The release of *Mookie*, a comedy in which Cantona plays a small-time boxer trying to evade a gang of criminals in Mexico, is intended to launch his film career into the big time, but it has provided the French press with the opportunity to take the mick out of Mookie and the retired Manchester United striker.

The newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche* implied that Cantona was in danger of being upstaged by his co-star, the eponymous Mookie, and published a photograph of the chimp and the actor above the caption: "Which of these two is the more expressive? Cantona demonstrates he is a natural actor who does not have to be taught how to smile."

The reviewer also pointed out that, for his first leading role, "Eric's task has been made easier by being asked to play... Cantona." As a southern French sportsman with intellectual leanings and an impenetrable regional accent, Cantona plays a southern

French sportsman with intellectual leanings and an impenetrable regional accent. "It has to be admitted, he is pretty good at it," remarked Carlos Gomez, the reviewer, tongue in cheek, adding that Cantona's Marseille brogue is "as thick as olive oil". Cantona's first part was a supporting role in the film *Le Bonheur est dans le Pré* (*Happiness lies in the Meadow*) and he appeared as a French nobleman in the British film *Elizabeth*.

Hervé Palud, the director, however, makes clear from the outset of *Mookie* that this is intended to be Cantona's official departure from the world of football and his big break on the big screen, using symbolism as subtle as a kang-fu kick to the jaw. In one scene a football kicked by street children rolls to the feet of Cantona, who, instead of kicking it, immediately steps over it and walks on.

Mookie is scheduled to appear in British cinemas in the middle of next year, and in the meantime, Cantona is working on a new film, *Les Enfants du Marais* (*Children of the Marsh*), the title of which suggests that the fearless former footballer is moving directly from working with animals to working with children.

US peace plan for Kosovo rejected

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A NEW draft political solution for Kosovo was rejected yesterday by the chief ethnic Albanian negotiator.

Speaking in Pristina, Fehmi Agani said the new US draft for a political settlement in the majority Albanian province was too close to the views of Serbia.

Hundreds have been killed and almost 300,000 ethnic Albanians displaced in a seven-month crackdown by Serbian forces against Kosovo's separatists, before an October

peace agreement brought about a tentative truce.

Serbia yesterday issued a veiled threat to international verifiers in Kosovo, saying it would be forced to launch a new offensive in the province if the West did not rein in ethnic Albanian guerrillas.

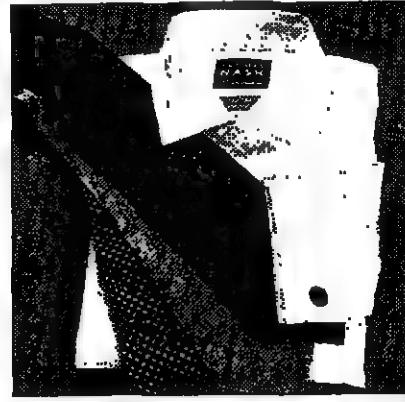
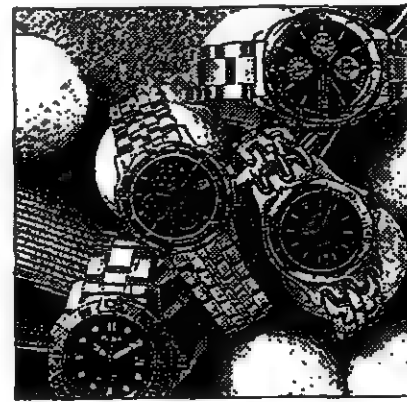
In The Hague yesterday, General Radislav Krstic, the top Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect, pleaded that he was not guilty of overseeing the 1995 massacre of thousands of Muslims.

DEBENHAMS

Our Christmas gift to you

FREE £5 voucher

Off purchases* of £50 or more. Valid 8-18 December 1998.



£5 voucher

This voucher is worth £5 off purchases of £50 or more at any Debenhams store including Browns of Chester. Valid 8-18 December 1998.

Terms and conditions:
1. This voucher can only be used from Tuesday 8 to Friday 18 December 1998 inclusive.
2. This voucher may only be used on purchases of £50 or more and cannot be used on any concession.
3. This voucher is not valid against the purchase of financial services, cash gift vouchers or Debenhams Direct.
4. This voucher cannot be used in conjunction with a staff card or with any other voucher offer.
5. Debenhams reserves the right to reject any voucher that is damaged or has been altered.
6. Excluding certain concessions. Excludes certain concessions.
Cash redemption value £0.00.

DEBENHAMS

BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE DEPARTMENT STORE

Voucher redeemable in all Debenhams stores including Browns of Chester.
*Excludes certain concessions.
Debenhams Retail plc, a member of the Debenhams plc Group of Companies, Registered in England, Company No. 83395.
Registered office: 1 Welbeck Street, London W1A 1DF.
Debenhams Retail (Ireland) Ltd, Company No. 239481.
Registered office: Fitzwilliam House, Wilton Place, Dublin.

www.debenhams.com

Suburbia is mobilised for 2000 'disaster'

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

IN Beverly Hills they spread the word at emergency preparedness fairs. In suburban Denver they run a Website that attracts 100,000 visitors a month. In Washington they are urging Christmas shoppers to buy thermal underwear instead of silk pyjamas. From coast to coast, they are stockpiling food. Meet the Y2K suburbanites — respectable, middle-class converts to the view that the millennium will bring a global computer meltdown. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary Americans have begun forming local groups dedicated to preparing for midnight on December 31, 1999, when they believe millions of computer chips will lose track of time. At this point, the theory goes, power grids will fail, food distribution systems will grind to a halt, sewers will back up, crime will escalate and airlines will be grounded

if they are lucky; the nightmare scenario has planes tumbling from the sky. The year 2000 deadline is one that a frantic few have warned the world about for years, but the latest prophets are not paranoid survivalists. They see themselves as concerned citizens whose society, as one put it yesterday, is "sleepwalking" into chaos. Diann Powell, 52, is one of them. Three weeks ago she resigned from her job with a Los Angeles engineering firm to set up the city's Westside Y2K Preparedness Task Force. She has booked the 3,000-seat Santa Monica Civic Auditorium for a seminar in February and in the meantime is knocking on 520 doors in her affluent Mar Vista neighbourhood, seeking listeners and support. She is also buying hundreds of cans of tuna and salmon,

making sure they all have recent sell-by dates. Such views first entered mainstream America last year when Paloma O'Riley, an American computer expert working for Rover in London, declined an offer to stay in England until 2000 and went home to Colorado. In the northern Denver suburb of Louisville, Ms O'Riley now runs a community project that happens to believe time has already run out to debug the world's computer systems. Back in California, the Y2K preparedness movement has enlisted Pat Boone, the uncrowned king of gospel rock, to persuade Beverly Hills homeowners that the threat to their cosseted lives is real. Should they still doubt it, they might note that the Federal Reserve is making plans to print an extra \$50 billion in cash in case of a run on banks.



Sabrina Battaglia arrives for her wedding yesterday in a gem-studded bridal dress

Precious dress to glitter for charity

Naples: An Italian woman was married yesterday in a 10 billion lire (£1.6 million) dress covered with diamonds, some of which she said she planned to donate to an AIDS charity after the ceremony.

Sabrina Battaglia, 31, turned up for her wedding to Aniello Formisano, 32, at the church of San Francesco di Paola, Naples, in an ivory dress studded on the bodice and skirt with 6,000 gems. The gown was slashed to the waist and featured gauze sleeves and a feathered ruff. The ceremony was featured on a daytime television show. A spokeswoman for Aniello, an AIDS activist group, said the couple would donate 50 diamonds to raise funds for a planned centre in Naples for children suffering from the condition. Some of the other diamonds on the dress will be auctioned to raise cash for the cause.

But Signora Battaglia will keep the large diamond ring, a gift from her husband. The diamonds were supplied by the bridegroom's brother-in-law, a gem dealer. Those not being sold or donated were returned to him. (Reuters)

Research blow for women warriors

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

RESEARCH showing that women are nine times more likely than men to suffer a knee injury during military training is being presented as evidence that they should not be allowed to fight alongside men on the battlefield.

As calls increase in America for an equal combat role for women, the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, conducted a study of midshipmen which found that the incidence of anterior cruciate ligament injury was much higher among women. "The research suggests women are nine times more prone to injury during training. This may become an issue of political controversy," according to Captain John Wickersham, report. Doctors said women have more flexible tendons and softer tissues than men, which afford less protection to ligaments.

The Pentagon bans women from land combat, but there has been a clamour for equal status. The Family Research Council seized on the report as evidence that the claims were misguided.

Millions to shareholders

OR

Millions to share?

Limited Offers

Members' Bonds exclusively for members of 3 years or more

Members' Reward Bond 7.75% gross p.a. (variable) 3 year term

Members' Fixed Rate Bond 7.35% gross p.a. (fixed) 1 year term

At Nationwide loyalty is something we've never taken lightly. Members who have been with us for at least three years, now qualify for even greater rates of interest, with our Members' Bonds.

Because we are a building society we have no shareholders to pay dividends to, only members to reap the rewards of our success. So for as little as £1, or as much as £5,000, you can earn interest rates of 7.75% gross p.a. (variable) or 7.35% gross p.a. (fixed) on your investment. And if you need to access your money, you can close your Bond before the end of the term, with 90 days' notice or 90 days' loss of interest.

It's your choice — you decide

It pays to decide...



The World's No.1 Building Society

How do you join us?

Call 0500 30 20 10, quoting MB01

www.nationwide.co.uk or visit your local branch

Rate quoted for the Members' Reward Bond may vary based on the date of going to print. The Bonds are available on a limited basis only. Members' Reward Bond and Members' Fixed Rate Bond are only available to existing members of Nationwide Building Society who have held a continuous relationship with the Society for at least 3 years or the date the Bond is opened. The minimum amount that can be invested in each Bond is £1,000 to a maximum of £10,000 in joint names. Each one of each Bond per person is allowed. The maximum number of joint Bond holders is two. The Members' Reward Bond has a 3 year term. The Members' Fixed Rate Bond has a 1 year term. Each closure of the Bonds is subject to 90 days' notice or 90 days' loss of interest. Income tax will usually be deducted from interest at 5% representative rate unless you are registered to receive interest gross as required by the Inland Revenue. Additional tax may be payable if you are a higher rate tax payer. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes to The Banking and Mortgage Codes. Nationwide Building Society, Head Office, 100, The Quadrant, London SW3 2SD.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Algerian toll rises as Ramadan nears

Paris: At least 60 people have been killed in Algeria in the last six days as the death toll mounts in the run-up to Ramadan (Ben Macintyre writes). In the latest of a series of attacks blamed on Islamic insurgents, a parcel bomb exploded yesterday in an Algiers suburb, injuring at least a dozen people. Muslim rebels consider the holy month of Ramadan, which will begin in the second half of December, to be an auspicious time for increasing the ferocity of their Jihad against the military-backed Government. During Ramadan last year, some 1,200 people were killed.

Eight killed in fire

Paris: A pre-dawn fire gutted a retirement home near Montmartre which had failed a safety inspection a week ago. Eight people were reported dead and 25 injured, some seriously. Among other points that a safety commission found lacking were emergency facilities to rescue people in the event of a disaster. About 40 of the 80 people in the home were evacuated by ladder. (AP)

Island battles rage

Moroni: Factional fighting on the secessionist Comorian island of Anjouan intensified, with a district of Mutsumudu, the main town, on fire. Sources put the death toll since Saturday at 30 to 40. Looters pillaged shops in Mutsumudu, where followers of the self-styled "president", Abdallah Ibrahim, attacked the adjoining village of Mironiby. Many residents fled to a neighbouring village. (AFP)

Miners rescued

Beijing: Six Chinese miners have been found alive after being trapped in a caved-in mine for 27 days, officials in Hebei province said. They survived by drinking water seeping through the roof and eating their leather belts. They were too weak to speak when rescued on November 26; the roof of the gypsum mine collapsed on October 31. (AFP)

Lust for oblivion

Wellington: A rare New Zealand bird, the hihi, about the size of a robin but with a bigger ego, is being driven to extinction because of its high-sex drive, according to a researcher at Massey University. Isabel Castro said constant pressure from males to copulate was making females stressed and more susceptible to disease. (Reuters)

The unforgettable gift of theatre e3 wonder



When you give a gift of Theatre Tokens you're giving more than just a night out. They can be used at over 180 theatres nationwide, including all of London's West End and are available from most branches of WH Smith, John Menzies, Hamicks, Books etc., through Apollo Theatres 0870 606 3473. Ticketmaster 0171 344 4444 or call our 24 hour

Tokenline 0171 240 8800



'It is hard to describe the emptiness'

You never imagine that it will happen to you. The early morning phone call: the heart-stopping moment when you learn that someone close to you is dead. These are things to be read about in books or seen at the cinema: music rising to a climax as some Hollywood heroine clutches the phone in disbelief. But there is no music: only a muffled voice, from deep in the subconscious, screaming: this cannot be happening to me.

The call came in late October. My eldest brother, Mike, had been killed in a car crash in Cape Town, where we grew up. He was 42. It had happened the night before and there were few details. He was not married, and we were telephoned by friends.

My parents emigrated to South Africa in 1967, and we will always think of the Cape as home. Mike stayed on when the rest of us returned to England in the mid-Eighties, and had been flying long stints in Angola, where he was a pilot with the United Nations. With time, memory dulls, and the Cape, with its valleys and vineyards, slipped into the realm of dreams. A wonderful, distant, dream.

But this was no dream, and the past had come blasting back like one of those fearsome Cape storms, sweeping in from the South Atlantic. God, how the wind used to blow, tearing off branches and hammering the rain against the windows. It raged again, now, as I struggled to take in the words. At times like this,

Jon Ashworth on coming to terms with the death of his eldest brother in a car crash

something kicks in, and you do what has to be done. You become detached, as if looking on while someone else — not you — goes through the motions. Slowly, the details began to emerge. The accident happened on a road we knew well, winding its way up a tree-lined valley from Hout Bay to Constantia Nek. We must have driven it hundreds of times.

Mike had been out for supper with some friends — Brett, 29, and his younger sister, Philippa. They paid their bill at about 11.15pm and drove off in Brett's BMW, with Mike as a passenger in the front. It had been raining, and there was a film of water on the road.

The police came across the wreckage about 30 minutes later. The BMW was wedged in among some trees. The entire front section — bonnet, engine and wheels — had been ripped off in the impact and flung across the road. Mike and Brett must have died instantly. Philippa was found unconscious near by. There were no witnesses and no tyre marks. For some terrible reason, the car



Brothers: left to right, Mike Ashworth with Tom and Jon in Cape Town

lost control at high speed and crashed side-on into a big eucalyptus tree, striking it just in front of the driver's door, then spinning round into two smaller trees, disintegrating as it turned. One tree was struck with such force that the upper half snapped off and hurtled over a wall, landing upright in the soil. The car's cigarette lighter was found 69 paces up the road.

Sitting in London, stock on the end of a phone, I longed for someone to tell me

that this was all a cruel hoax. But all too soon we really were 6,000 miles away, landing at the tip of Africa under a leaden sky. Cape Town is one of those timeless places; never really changing. The same cars. The same roads. It is as if you have never been away.

We drove to the accident site. About halfway down the valley, the road runs past some cemeteries, with a little church on one side and signs warning drivers to slow for pedestrians. The road is

straight, here, and is lined with eucalyptus trees. It is a lonely place. As we drew near, my eyes were drawn to something colourful in the shadows. One of the trees had been garlanded with flowers, as if adorned with a necklace, yellow and white. The bark had been torn off and the earth around was gouged and littered with tiny pieces of debris. We got out to have a look. It is hard to describe the feeling of utter emptiness.

During the flight to Cape Town, lightning had pulsed through the clouds below like bombs exploding in an old war-torn newsreel. The storm followed us, so that at midnight on the day we arrived in Cape Town, it erupted with Shakespearean intensity. Lightning framed the mountain, and the windows shook. It was as if the gods were raging for a life cut short.

Early the next morning, feeling numb, I drove to Hout Bay police station to collect Mike's personal belongings. Items were counted out and laid on the rough wooden counter: Mike's wallet, his ID book, a pen, his aviator's watch, his Nokia mobile phone. The police had even listed the banknotes by serial number. How honest, I remember thinking.

Next came the funeral arrangements, and with them, a deepening sense of unreality. I paid for it all on my Barclaycard, for God's sake! Choosing the coffin was like a visit to a car showroom (shall we go for the basic model, or do we throw in the alloy wheels?). They have since

sent me a questionnaire asking: 'Would you use our company? For us, the funeral was a revelation. One of Mike's fellow pilots spoke of calls coming in via satellite from all over Central Africa. An air traffic controller from Cape Town airpore described how a shadow had fallen over the airwaves when the terrible news broke. We saw Mike as he was seen by others: a consummate professional, highly respected by all. He had recently flown his 10,000th hour, ferrying UN supply and personnel to remote strips, a lifeline in a land torn by conflict.'

We were shown photographs taken in Angola: derelict Russian aircraft where, bullet-scarred buildings at children playing to the camera. Mike, an unsung hero, flying with other using heroes who are tying there now.

Back in London, it is hard, sometimes, to believe that any of this happened. I feel so distant; so remote; yet he is in real enough. Different episodes are crowding in: sorrow, for a life ended before his time; anger, that such a thing should happen; guilt, over things which were left unresolved; and bewilderment, at the shifting emotional sands.

Above all, there is fear: the recognition that life could end now, this instant. That's how fragile it is. We all like to think we will grow old and die in our sleep, but it doesn't happen that way. And I will never look at a BMW without wondering what happened on that lonely road, far away at the end of Africa.

Coping with the baffling Tourette syndrome takes courage, says Anjana Ahuja

Roughly every five minutes, Peter Stephenson will punch himself in the throat. Struggle as he might to maintain a pleasant manner, he cannot help spouting four-letter words and aggressively sticking his middle finger in the air. It is, he says, as if his body is inhabited by a malevolent spirit.

Peter, 16, suffers from Gilles de la Tourette syndrome (shortened to Tourette syndrome), a rare neurological disorder that results in utterances and physical tics that are outside the sufferer's control. His first attack came two years ago, after being bullied. "It was like something from *The Exorcist*," recalls his mother, Anne. "He started howling like a wolf and his body started flinging itself around the room. It was terrifying."

There is no cure and no clear understanding of what causes the disorder, which claims 29,000 sufferers in Britain. That is why Anne, 39, a classically trained violinist, is using her musical talent to raise money for the Tourette Syndrome (UK) Association (TSA). She has brought out a single, *Dance With Me Christmas Tree*, which tells the story of a pine tree that discovers on Christmas Day that it isn't alone after all. It describes the loneliness she felt until she was put in touch with the TSA.

Anne, who also has a six-year-old son Alex by a later

Battle with the bizarre

marriage, is not rich — she lives in a council maisonette in Greenwich, in southeast London, and supplements earnings from her music sessions with family credit and housing benefit. Yet she has sunk £1,500 of her money into producing the single and won't recover her costs from any money she makes. She also plans to do a Christmas tree outfit, made by a costume friend, and busk in Trafalgar Square and in shopping centres up and down the capital. Along with three violinist friends willing to dress up as fairies, she is also offering her musical services as an unusual quartet.

Her upfront manner and contacts in the music business — the one-time member of the Communards has played with the Manic Street Preachers, Massive Attack, Style Council and Bryan Ferry — have come in useful. "When I played with the Manics on *Top of the Pops* recently, I bumped into the

producer and showed him a picture of my Christmas tree outfit," Anne says. "He thought it was great, and asked if I would come on the Christmas edition." She has also managed to get BMG, a music company, to handle distribution of her record.

Peter, she thinks, inherited the condition from his father. Anne says: "Looking back, his father showed all the signs but, because we were both punks, I never noticed. He used to hop up and down the street, twirling and whooping. He used to talk in different voices. I thought it was part of his zany personality. It was only when we regained contact with him last year, after Peter said he wanted to meet him, that he said he suffered from the same urges as Peter."

Their son's condition, however, seemed far worse. "After that first attack, Peter spent six

months howling and suffering from very violent tics. He would tip his dinner on his head. He stabbed himself in the neck with a pen. He felt like there was something living inside his body. He'd keep shouting 'bollocks' and 'piss'." Like many other Tourette sufferers, Peter's condition was accompanied by attention deficit disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder. Anne says: "He was obsessive about his hair and teeth. He felt that if his hair wasn't perfect when he stepped out of the door, he would be killed. And he used to brush his teeth until his gums poured with blood."

He was taken into hospital many times for observation, and given drugs. "They gave him different drugs, some of which made the tics happen in slow motion. But the drugs turned him into a zombie." Anne and Peter decided jointly that sedative drugs were not the way forward for him.

The syndrome worsens when a person is under stress, which is why Anne fought for 18 months, along with Nick Raynsford, her local MP, to get him into a special school.

Now he lives during the week at Parkwood Hall School in Swanley, where he can nurture his gifts for music and art (Peter achieved an A* in GCSE art, his only qualification). "He's formed a band, and goes to a mainstream school one day a week, to study A-level art," she says, proudly showing off her son's Dali-esque paintings.

On other days, he studies mathematics and English, has speech and language therapy, and help for his obsessive compulsive disorders. "He still punches himself in the chest every five minutes, and he still says 'piss' you," he still sticks his finger up and he still suffers sleeping problems, but he is so much happier. "The arrangement allows Anne to give attention to Alex, and to have some respite for herself."

As highlighted by Anne's willingness to stand in Trafalgar Square in a Christmas tree costume, the family combat adversity with a sense of humour. "Sometimes, if he can't put a sock on, he will stick two fingers up at it, and you have to laugh," Anne smiles. "And it looks as if he will achieve what I have always wanted: his own job, his own flat and his own girlfriend. He used to worry about not having a girlfriend but now he has lots of girls after him because he is so handsome, talented, funny and witty. But he could so easily have gone the other way."

● TSA helpline: 01892 609151. For details of the single, or to book Anne Stephenson: 0181-355 6036



Anne Stephenson will dress in a Christmas tree outfit to raise funds for her son's condition

FAT REMOVAL



Performed normally as a day case by our experienced surgeons, we can effectively remove stubborn fat from the stomach, bottom, thighs, knees, ankles, arms, chin and male chest.

It is a reliable treatment that offers permanent results in the areas treated. (Over one million patients have been treated worldwide).

So, if you are unhappy or self-conscious with your figure, perhaps you should consider liposuction/liposculpture.

For a confidential consultation (without charge) with one of our experienced nurses, please telephone our national number below to get instantly connected to your nearest clinic.

OTHER PROCEDURES FOR MEN AND WOMEN INCLUDE: BREAST NOSE, FACE AND EAR RE-SHAPING, EYELID SURGERY, VARIKOSE AND THREAD VEIN REMOVAL, COLLAGEN REPLACEMENT THERAPY, PENIS ENLARGEMENT, LASER TREATMENTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF LINES, WRINKLES, ACNE SCARS AND SMOKING PROBLEMS. ALSO A SPECIALISED SKIN CARE RANGE NOW AVAILABLE.

THE HARLEY MEDICAL GROUP

6 Harley Street, London W1N 1AA

ESTABLISHED 1993

FOR YOUR NEAREST CLINIC

TELEPHONE 0870 603 4444

LASER HAIR REMOVAL

TREATMENT AVAILABLE

EXCELLENT FACIAL, UNDER ARM, BODY, BACK LINE AND LEGS

CLINICS IN LONDON • CITY OF LONDON • WIMBLEDON • BIRMINGHAM • BRIGHTON • BRISTOL • MANCHESTER • LEEDS

Gordon Bennett! The man behind the mania

Supporting trophies tend to be weighed in ounces, but next week Sotheby's New York is to sell a 3st yachting cup that holds more than 12 gallons of punch. The Victorian extravagance of this prize epitomised the ostentatious, rumbustious and wild behaviour of James Gordon Bennett, who commissioned the cup. Bennett, the son of a Scotsman, started the *New York Herald* and later became a great American 19th-century newspaper owner.

Bennett's taste in practical jokes was mainly of the egg-on-the-face variety. Fortunately, he carried wads of banknotes, which he distributed to those who had been the butt of his jokes. Bennett suffered from mania, milder degrees of which are known as hypomania.

People with mania are over-energetic, over-optimistic and never keep still. They are

usually described as being over-elated, euphoric or excessively enthusiastic. But because they seem to be on the edge of being unbalanced and aggressive, some experts feel the mood is better described as overexcited.

Mania, with clinical depression, is part of the bipolar disorder. The hyperactivity displayed by manic patients includes an inability to sit still or to let other people have their say — manic people cut across every conversation and do not listen to others, for their thoughts leap from one subject to another. Manic patients tend to go on wild spending sprees, and/or become involved in a multitude of sexual scrapes or drinking binges. They are not only hyperactive in their movements, but also in their speech, talking so fast that it sounds as if the words are being forced out under pressure.

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAEORD

In those with a lesser degree of hypomania, their enthusiasm makes them excellent salespeople. Their slight disregard for accuracy in relation to their attainments often leads to rapid promotion. But once delusions of grandeur become too pronounced, trouble follows. Kings of industry may think of themselves as God, but if they express it, their board is apt to show alarm.

Bennett's downfall stemmed from a different symptom: he became wildly disinhibited. He urinated into the piano that had been brought to his engagement party, and later

fought a duel with his would-be brother-in-law. Although manic people usually seem jolly — the life and soul of the party — there is often, paradoxically, an element of suppressed depression and irritability underlying their mood, and they may become unpleasantly aggressive if thwarted, even violent. Bennett's mood varied from the noisily jovial and over-generous to the over-familiar and uninhibited — he did not understand the boundaries of social behaviour.

Today James Gordon Bennett could be treated. Instead of being ostracised in his later years, he would have continued to make his huge fortunes and dispense his largesse. With correctly balanced treatment, the patient's mood and behavioural pattern will return to their previous state. Left untreated, not only may their social, professional and domestic life cascade around

their ears, but their employers, wives and families are also frequently damaged. Dr Tommy Sharma, the Institute of Psychiatry in London says: "In a manic patient's case it is essential to delete if there are psychotic fears — grandiose delusions or religious mania, for example. Now that the neurobiology of the brain is understood we can treat the disease adequately and patients can return to their old lifestyles."

Psychoses are treated with atypical neuroleptics, possibly risperidone, which do not cause excessive weight gain. Lithium is no longer only drug used to treat over-excitability. Medications for epilepsy, including carbamazepine, are effective against mania — and hypomania. Other useful anti-epileptics are lamotrigine. More recently, clinical trials have started on topiramate.

Ordering books online this Christmas from amazon.co.uk is easy. You only need to remember one digit.



Open 24 hours

24hr service

Gift certificates

click with **amazon.co.uk**

books for everyone

No Oskar awards from the Chancellor

Michael Gove exposes the real threat to Gordon Brown

We shall fight them on the rebates, we shall fight them on the VAT returns. We will never surrender. It may be handbags at dawn in the bars of Vienna this Friday but we can rely on Robin and Gordon to give Herr Lafontaine what for. If the Blairite dream lasts for a thousand years, they will still say our fight against harmonisation was our finest hour.

But even in this struggle, to keep our revenues pristine, there are collaborators. Only last week Dawn Primarolo, the Unity Miford of the Treasury, was in cahoots with the continental. Her purpose? To draw up a list of British tax exemptions which might be surrendered.

Ten areas where Britain enjoys tax advantages, from incentives for the film industry, through "enterprise zones", to special schemes for business in Ulster, are all to be sacrificed in the name of harmonisation. Given the scale of her collaboration why has she not been tarred and feathered on the Treasury steps? How can Red Dawn get away with it?

To appreciate the answer, it is necessary to understand the real threat which Oskar Lafontaine poses to Gordon Brown. And it is not tax harmonisation. I do not mean to argue that bringing British taxes into line with continental practice will be anything other than hugely harmful to our industry. And I do not underestimate how damaging the tax harmonisation row has been to the Chancellor's campaign to take Britain into EMU. But the looming danger to Mr Brown's position is not what Oskar will do to our economy, but what he is doing to Germany.

When Gordon Brown addressed the Labour Party conference in September he gave the brothers some of the old-time religion. But it was from the Gospel of St Margaret. The horn-asin-bellower in Prudence and Rectitude declared that there was no alternative to his tight fiscal stance. Months before Culture Club had returned to the charts, Gordon was pioneering an Eighties revival.

He won a standing ovation, but it was a muted one because the comrades knew there was an alternative. And it had been elected just that day in Germany. The Social Democrat-Green alliance, with Oskar Lafontaine as its fulcrum, was going to prove that Keynes was not dead but alive and well and supervising a public works programme in the Saarland.

The emergence of Oskar as the dominant force in the new German Government poses significant problems for the Chancellor and his allies. One Brownite MP outlined the problem last week, pointing out that the Left within Labour, hitherto denied a practical alternative around which to rally, had been handed one by the German electorate.

The Chancellor's management of the economy is, of course, nowhere near as prudent as he would like us to believe. The reserve has been raided to keep Frank Dobson in bedpans for the winter. Francis Maude has pointed out that public spending increases over the next three years are very far from Thatcherite. But it doesn't look like that in Doncaster.

Faced with a recession in manufacturing, limits on local government expenditure and cuts to come in the social security budget, a significant section of the Labour Party will grow ever more agitated. They will want to know why Gordon Brown wants to stick to the spending limits that lost Kenneth Clarke an election rather than moving towards the position which won Oskar Lafontaine his contest.

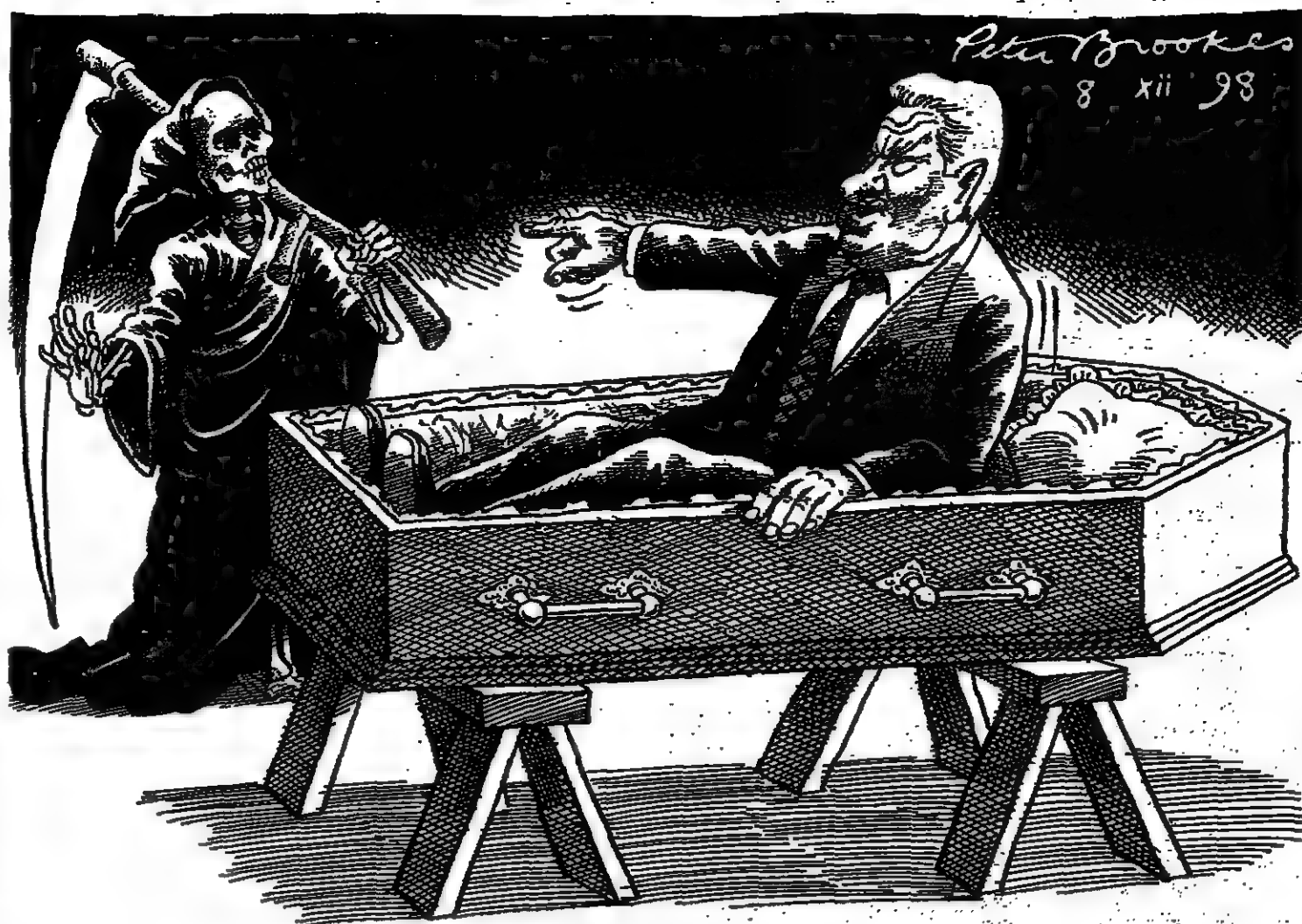
Even before Herr Lafontaine got his hands on the federal finances, he was able to pioneer his approach in the Saarland. And there will be some on Mr Brown's doorstep who will argue that what is good enough for the Saarland should be good enough for Scotland. Although the Scottish Labour Party is pledged not to use the new assembly's tax-raising powers in the first term, any Labour administration there will be under pressure to make the most of them.

The party's selection process in Scotland has been expertly managed by the trade unions to secure a large bloc of traditionalist candidates all anxious to turn Clydeside Red.

The intellectual case for such a Left turn has new advocates. Socialists are firing off Tony's timidity, as *Marxism Today* proved by its attack on Mr Blair's "Great Moving Nowhere Show". There are only so many times that you can abolish the internal market in the NHS before your activists demand more. Gordon Brown has declared that he is moving towards a 10p rate of income tax nearly as often as the Vicar of St Albans has read the banns of his marriage to Sarah Macaulay. And still no action.

It was Europe which provided the pretext for the last left-wing challenge to Mr Brown. After Britain left the ERM in 1992, the Tribune Group criticised his support for the currency corset, arguing for a more Keynesian approach. Supporters of Robin Cook such as Roger Berry and Peter Hain were, at the time, critical of Europe because of the monetarist approach inherent in Maastricht. Now European leaders are relaxing the stays of that search, while Gordon remains committed to restraint, the temptation for Labour's Left to cut loose is growing.

Labour's socialist wing could become Oskar's fifth-columnists. And there are few more socialist in this Government than Red Dawn Primarolo. Which is why she is being kept busy sewing up loopholes, lest the Red Devil of Saarbrücken finds more work for her idle hands.



This cruel dilemma

Behind the madness of animal rights extremism lie uncomfortable truths

As I write, Barry Horne is dying. His body, wasted by 63 days without food, is irreversibly damaged. He is doing it on purpose; he is a convicted multiple arsonist whose supporters threaten murder. More robust journalists than I have managed to take the line that, frankly, it serves him right and good riddance.

Yet so unnatural is Barry Horne's war on his own life that a mist of distress spreads outward from the York hospital where he lies. Human death is not something a civilised society can ignore. By ugly paradox, in all terrorist hunger-strikes, men who themselves have been careless about life can exploit their adversaries' more tender consciences. Barry Horne knows that we cannot ignore him. Apart from his own suffering, it is impossible not to flinch at the thought of what the doctors and nurses at York are enduring, watching a formerly healthy 46-year-old father killing himself slowly on their ward. But at least he is giving all he has. Outside in the icy winter air, complacent demonstrators talk cheerfully of his coming death as a "boost" for their cause. The most extreme of them, the Animal Rights Militia, demonstrate their reverence for life by publishing a list of those they will assassinate if he dies. How the hell did we get here?

The simple story is that Mr Horne, a campaigner against vivisection serving an 18-year sentence for arson, wants the Government to honour its 1996 pledge to support a royal commission "to review the effectiveness and justification of animal experiments, and to examine alternatives". "It is," said Mr Horne, "a simple matter of keeping your promises." However, this is disingenuous. When he began the hunger strike his demand was that the Government commit itself to abolishing all research involving animals by 2002. No government would do this; moreover, Mr Horne knows perfectly well that no royal commission would deliver it. The best that could be hoped for would be a further tightening of the rules.

But if you have got to the point where you recklessly firebomb a Cancer Research charity shop, Boots, Halfords, and a sports shop with a mother and baby living overhead, you are hardly going to be fobbed off by a mere royal commission. What

Barry Horne is doing is an age-old tactic: scale down the demand late, to make the adversary look heartless. Yes he is dying. And although many do not validate a cause, they are an indicator which prudent governments and nations should notice. If we have an explosion of animal rights extremism, there is a reason.

Granted, some of the campaigners are irrational and unstable nuts. Those who smash windows and bomb shops and post needle-bombs to Professor Colin Blakemore, of the Oxford Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience (his children collected one from the postman, and held it in their small hands a few Christmas ago), are bordering on insanity. Yet their insanity focuses on animals because animals are the perfect image of innocence, and of victimhood: they do not speak but only endure. And what we have to recognise, through our disgust, is that in the core of the madness lies a nugget of truth. We do have a duty towards animals. They do have a claim on our compassion.

This is even clearer among the less zealous campaigners who surfaced a couple of years back, barricading Brightlingsea, and whose protests culminated in the accidental martyrdom of Jill Phipps under a lorry. They were at times ludicrous, but it is true that the export of veal calves represents an unnecessarily cruel subordination of animals' interests to those of economics. But, then, so does much modern food production: cows struggle to walk with chemically distended udders; sows, by nature solicitous and organised mothers, are cramped with their piglets in conditions so filthy and stressful that they are routinely fed antibiotics. Monstrous systems of keeping and breeding produce fowl that are blind, distorted and deranged. Even some sheep are now, according to reports, being shown at the onset of winter to make them put on weight faster

(although, to judge by the shepherds I know, and the wicked state of the sheep market, this is probably an indicator of miserable desperation rather than wanton greed).

Throughout the industrial century, abuse of animals has become both routine and dangerously invisible. That is how we came to the pass where beagles were forced to smoke cigarettes and rabbits had cosmetics dripped into their eyes: it is only this year that cosmetic testing has been stopped, and not by the industry's own choice. It is fair to suppose that there are still laboratories where they think of rats as just another perishable piece of stock. A royal commission might be a way of ensuring that every lab animal is genuinely needed and treated with reasonable respect.

Indeed, in an age of sharper concern for animals there may be new ethical and practical balances to be found. To pull an example from the air, it might ask questions about the use of live animals for tests on recreational drugs. Perhaps the balance of morality has changed, and where 20 years ago we might exchange animal suffering for new ways to help overdone party-druggers, today we won't. The same might apply to some behavioural research: many years ago there was a famous experiment into maternal bonding, where an infant chimpanzee learnt to cling to a "mother" made of fur on a metal framework, and researchers made the fake mother give the baby electric shocks, to see whether it "forgave" her. That would not be tolerated now, any more than animal experiments involving offensive weapons, alcohol and tobacco are now allowed. Times change, civilisation advances.

But there has to be a limit and it has to be clear. Labour has not played fair. Before the election it took £1 million from the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and implicitly encouraged animal campaigners to expect the moon. It sold

itself as the furry-party party, the one your pussycat would vote for. Now realpolitik has dispelled its enthusiasm in that direction: it is even beginning to understand, slowly, that there are animal welfare arguments on both sides of the hunting debate. But it has not yet come out and said clearly that there will always be a fine beyond which it cannot go in taking the side of animals against human beings, and that the extremists will never be gratified.

At the weekend Professor Blakemore, in a powerful statement of the scientist's position, pointed out that no senior government figure has come forward — as George Bush's Health Secretary Louis Sullivan did — to condemn animal rights terrorism for "impeding life-enhancing research". He claims that in America, popular support for animal extremism declined sharply in the early Nineties when the Government explained, without apology or fudge, the rationale of research. To do this would be a start. Beyond that, we might do well to have a commission of inquiry into all areas of animal welfare.

I could examine both laboratories and farming. It could consider zoos, and take an unprecedented look at the pet industry. Animal welfare is an oddly quiet about this last area, probably because much of their support is from pet-owning sentimentalists; but if laboratory rats are to have their comfort considered, so should overbred show dogs, confined indoor cats, pet-shop hamsters, and guard dogs immured in tiny yards. The balance of human need and animal welfare should be considered not only by scientists and biologists but by philosophers and psychologists and ethicists.

Some of the answers would disgust animal rightsists, some would delight them. But it is asking for trouble to leave all the thinking and all the moralising to a troubled (and sometimes not very bright) minority of zealots.

Meanwhile, out beyond the extremes of feeling and sense, Barry Horne is dying. He wouldn't do it if he knew it was useless. His strength derives from the core of uneasy truth at the heart of his madness: a truth which the rest of us would do well to reach for, and examine.

Russia isn't working

Anna Blundy on a nation addicted to idleness

In Sunday's *Kukli* programme, Russia's version of *Spitting Image*, Boris Yeltsin was portrayed as a shipwrecked captain, languishing in his tent as Russia's politicians desperately tried to come up with a rescue plan.

Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, was shown frantically trying to radio the approaching ice-breaker *DMF*, which threatened to crush him with its almighty force. "We're taking the right course!" screamed Primakov, as Yeltsin peered out of his tent to see what was going on.

Yesterday Russia's President popped out of hospital for a brief period of sacking and signing before being rushed back to bed. This system of running a country and a crippled economy seems a bit odd to your average Westerner, but the Russians, used to sticky leaders and unorthodox working practices, find no real surprise.

Long used to thankless jobs and corrupt management, Russians are wont to take what they can and run as far as possible where work is concerned. The rewards of working for others have always been few and far between, but Westerners are constantly maddened by what the perceive as the laziness and pettiness of Russians.

George Soros, speaking at a *Time* forum in London last night, may have many a salient politico-economic reason for the failure of capitalism in the East. But it is foundering in Russia because Russians have a live-for-the-moment attitude. "They tend as a nation to behave as though they might die tomorrow because well, they might," Yeltsin, with his hard drinking, erratic behaviour and sudden sackings is an obvious case in point. The brutality of Russian history and perhaps the cruelty of the Russian winter have taught the people to get what they can out of life quickly — it might soon be over.

Nikolai Karamzin, the author of a 12-volume history of Russia, published in 1829, when asked to sum up Russians and their attitude to work said: "They steal."

Certain patronising Western capitalists are of the opinion that it is communism that has ruined the Russian work ethic. "The communists took the reward out of working," yet hear gleamingly-potholed Americans, Moscow's *Starline* driver say. "If only we could teach them about satisfaction and the benefits of long-term employment, then the country would really have a future." But it is not the fault of communism that Russians are very, very, and ironic with a bleak sense of humour and a fatalistic view of life, always assuming the worst, always nostalgic for a golden past that never actually existed.

Giles Fletcher's *Of the Ruin of Commonwealth*, written after his ambassadorial visit from England to Russia in 1588, describes a country and a people that have not changed much to this day. Fletcher writes that doing business with Russians is difficult because "The Russian neither believes anything that an other man speaks, nor speaks any thing himself worthy to be believed."

As far as Russians are concerned, work is what you have to do to survive, enjoying yourself is the thing to be taken seriously. There is a famous Russian joke about two brothers who visit their father. The father pours out some vodka and says: "Now this you're here, here drink."

"Right you are," replies the first son and they down the shots in one. "Now," says the second son, "let's be some work." "You don't half be rubbish when you're drunk," the first son tells him.

Of course, this is a vicious circle. Russians no longer believe in the American dream, therefore they cheat and steal in the knowledge that the opportunity might not be open to them twice. But the very fact that they do this, that Russian banks have swallowed up their savings, that chronic mismanagement and corruption have effectively bankrupted the country, means that the pessimists have had their fears justified. (The words for "in a jar" in Russian are the same as for "in a bank" and most Russians know which is a safer place to keep your money.)

Perhaps if they had fully understood the principles of a market economy, perhaps if they had followed the examples of the robber barons like the Rockefellers and the Morgans, things might have worked out better. Or perhaps not. Though they claim to hate them, Russians have a grudging respect for the young mafioso millionaires that country has lately produced. Under communism breaking the law was noble activity and those who survived their prison sentences earned a slight but deep respect.

A little of that attitude still endures and there are many here who hug Sergei Mikhailov, or "Mikhas", currently on trial in Switzerland on suspicion of running an organised crime group, will not go to prison. They envy him his Geneva residence and his nice suits, certainly, but they acknowledge that if they had had the chance to make money effortlessly they would have taken it, whatever the risks. As they never get enough of saying here: "Work loves fools."

Number's up

GEOFFREY ROBINSON is for hire. That is certainly the impression one gains if one's fingers walk through the *Yellow Pages*. The storm-tossed Paymaster General has placed a discreet notice in next year's edition advertising his availability as a "political consultant". The advert, nestled between those for lobbying firms such as GPC of "Drapergate" fame, helpfully includes a direct telephone line to Geoffrey's Commons office. Requiring some advice on a delicate offshore tax matter, I sought to take advantage of the minister's fine offer and called him. His secretary referred me to another Robinson office, in Brighton.

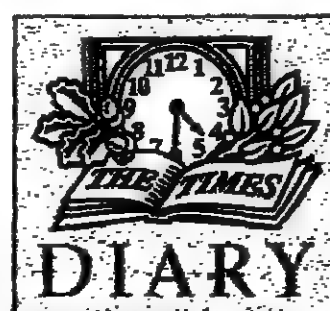
Having already been rebuffed for breaching parliamentary rules over his outside interests, one would have thought that the multimillionaire businessman would be cautious before embarking upon what would be a flagrant breach of ministerial rules. Offering the Treasury inside track to selected businessmen appears to be covered by Cabinet Office strictures regarding "avoiding any conflict of interest" from using special knowledge in ways which bring benefit to private financial interests. And was it not Geoffrey himself, in a Commons mea culpa for a scrape, a fortnight ago, who vowed: "No attempt was made by me at any time to use my position in this House to advance any commercial interest?"

POLITICAL CONSULTANTS

Robinson Geoffrey, M.P.
Paymaster General, Westminster, SW1A
30 Portico House, Portico, Portico, Portico
Vigilant Committee
Vigilant House, 120
Westminster Palace
Whitehall, London
Treasury, 2, Whitehall

Political

A Treasury toiler insists that it was a mistake to list Robinson under "political consultant". But *Yellow Pages* points out that there is another section for "political organisations" which other MPs have chosen. "Every customer decided what category to put themselves under."



● GREETINGS from the fog monster Philip Morris (heads) onto the *Diary* Towers drawbridge — bearing the inscription "This card supports Age Concern".

Low Mark

BARONESS THATCHER is heading to South Africa and the bad news for her errant son Mark is that she is taking her handbag. He is being investigated about money-lending. Little boy Thatch says the business was not to make money, but to help. "Are you blaming me for lending money?" Now he has been left with £220,000 debts. He is also being sued for £8 million by a former chum for alleged unpaid commission on arms deals brokered while Mama was PM. Maggie is staying for Christmas, which should be jolly.

● TRICKY being a hostess while the House of Lords burns. Ask Baroness Fletcher, who quit the Tories last week. She welcomed guests to a Lords dinner, then dashed to tell nice Jeremy Paxman that William Hague is a rotter.

Just the job

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE has joined Oxford's game of musical chairs. The former minister is being touted as a replacement for Sir Keith Thomas when he steps down as President of Corpus Christi in 2000. It is Waldegrave's former college, and he is an honorary Fellow. But he suggests.



In his best "I want to spend time with my family" voice, that he is busy making moolah in the City. "Nobody has made any proposition to me, and the college is democratic," he tells me carefully. "It is flattering to have one's name mentioned in relation to such a job. The view across the Meadows must be more charming than Fenchurch Street."

Jail bird

ROALD DAHL depicted wickedness with great skill. Now his granddaughter, Sophie Dahl (pictured), has seen it close up. She has been filming *Mid Cow* at Windward clink. "Prison chic doesn't suit me," she writes in *Tatler*. "It doesn't matter, you're an actress," she tells herself. "Shan't bother covering up your imperfections, then," says the make-up artist, who says Sophie looks "like the freak in *Prisoner Cell Block H*". Things go worse in the prison yard. Miss Dahl jumps around to loud music. Then an inmate screams from a window. "There is not much to shout about here, you know."

Oh, Lord

CHRISTMAS, courtesy of the artistic community. André Du-



rand, who made his name depicting Diana, Princess of Wales, as a clown in a pizza parlour, has outdone himself. He has reworked a familiar biblical scene in contemporary fashion. In *Flagellazione di Cristo* (above) seems designed to offend those with religious and artistic sensibilities. The Pope has let Durand into the Vatican three times, which only proves what a brave chap the pontiff is.

● AFTER the introduction of spaniels to the political lexicon, hunting types have taken to naming their mutts "Cranborne".

JASPER GERARD

Russia isn't working in a Blundy on... addice... business



HOME BUYING HORRORS

How ministers might make matters better or worse

Few processes in life cause as much stress as moving house. If the practical difficulties of viewing endless properties, finding a suitable one, completing the abundant paperwork and moving all one's belongings from one to another were not enough, there are the emotional tensions of hoping that one's offer is accepted, and then praying that the sale will not fall through. All these problems are compounded when the purchase of a new property has to be matched by the sale of an existing one. New government proposals, published yesterday, aim to reduce the period of that anxiety from the current average of 12 weeks between acceptance of an offer and handover of keys.

Although England and Wales have one of the cheapest homebuying systems in the West, they also have the lengthiest. A comparative international study conducted for the Green Paper found that transactions took nearly twice as long as in comparable countries. Scotland, too, is quicker, with an average of six weeks from offer to completion. So should England and Wales simply adopt the Scottish system?

There, sellers invite bids over a fixed period and accept the highest offer, which is then legally binding. This has the advantage of preventing gazumping, breaking chains and introducing certainty. But it also means that for every buyer whose offer has been accepted several more have wasted money on valuation and survey fees. Buyers who have an offer accepted and have not sold their own home have to take out extremely expensive bridging loans; and sellers who have failed to find a new home have to move into temporary accommodation.

So the Scottish system, for all its speed, is brutal too. Moreover, gazumping, which Labour came into office committed to ending, turns out to be much less of a problem than anecdote suggests. The Government's survey of 2,000 consumers

and professionals involved in buying and selling property found that only 1-2 per cent of transactions involved gazumping. Some 40 per cent of buyers and sellers were dissatisfied with the process as a whole, however, with nearly half saying it had been worse than they had expected.

There must surely be room for improvement. Reducing the time between offer and sale ought to moderate the stress levels of all concerned. Ministers are suggesting two changes for consumers to adopt, as well as ideas for expediting the speed at which the professionals work.

First, they propose that buyers should obtain an "in principle" mortgage arrangement before making an offer on a property. Most sensible purchasers do so already; it would certainly speed things up if this were done routinely. Meanwhile, sellers should assemble an information pack before they put their properties on the market, which would include a structural survey, title deeds, searches, planning consents, warranties and, where required, lease details.

This idea would be attractive only if buyers and mortgage lenders were prepared to accept the validity of such information. But yesterday, the Council of Mortgage Lenders said that it would still insist on a full valuation and advise buyers to get their own survey, thus completely defeating the object of the reform.

If the other parties to the deal do not trust the seller's survey, there would be a pointless duplication of cost with no saving in time. For trust to be possible, both the buyer and the lender would have to be able to sue the surveyor if the report were incomplete.

In some cases these information packs could save time. But there is no guarantee that they would. Making them compulsory (one of the options in the Green Paper) would not only be a heavy-handed and burdensome interference in the system. It might not even achieve the desired result.

MALAYSIA IN COURT

The Anwar case is not about morals but about power

The recantation by a key witness of the central allegation of sexual assault throws into disarray the prosecution case against Anwar Ibrahim, and throws into turmoil the most politically important trial in Malaysia since the country gained independence. Anwar, 34, the ousted Deputy Prime Minister's former driver, drew gasps of surprise from the court when he contradicted earlier testimony that Mr Anwar had sodomised him. Mr Anwar's supporters were delighted. The prosecution was dumbfounded. Human rights activists in Malaysia and beyond who have accused Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, of seeking to ruin his adversary by besmirching his reputation are now quietly hopeful that the sensational court case will collapse.

The defence argues that the recantation discredits the Government case; the prosecution insists that Mr Anwar misunderstood the point he was being asked in court. Whatever the truth of the matter, the allegations against Mr Anwar of sexual misconduct and corruption in seeking a cover-up now look barely credible. The case still has weeks to run. But as a show trial, it is already proving counter-productive. Instead of confirming the allegations, that Mr Anwar was a man who abused his position of power and trust, it has drawn world attention to the cronyism, corruption and lack of real democracy in Malaysia that lie at the heart of the decision to go ahead with the prosecution.

Mr Anwar is not on trial alone. Malaysia's political and legal culture are on trial too. The assault on the former loyal deputy immediately after his arrest raised immediate questions about police abuse; since then, fortunately, Mr Anwar has had

no complaints about conditions of detention. The trial itself, however, has hardly been a vindication of Malaysia's legal tradition. The judge has veered from the capricious to the dictatorial, attempting at first to ban foreign and human rights observers from the court, and then, disgracefully, sentencing one of the main defence lawyers to three months' imprisonment and threatening another.

Malaysians increasingly see the trial as a test of strength between an autocrat determined to retain power and a younger generation disillusioned with Dr Mahathir's manipulative politics. Demonstrations, far from dying down as the trial wears on, have increased and have brought out on to the streets students, professionals and even lawyers protesting at the treatment of their colleagues.

The example of neighbouring Indonesia has both encouraged and frightened Malaysia. No one wants the chaos, violence and catastrophic drop in living standards that prompted and resulted from the ousting of President Suharto. On the other hand Malaysians, with a higher standard of living and a more sophisticated political culture, feel the pull of political pluralism more strongly than their neighbours; if protesters can oust an autocrat in Indonesia, how much more galling that Malaysians are unable to rein in the corruption of their own Government. The Anwar trial will not, in itself, resolve these issues. But it is a focus for discontent, still largely contained within the courtroom. A conviction, despite the collapse of the central evidence would confirm suspicion that the trial is about power, not morals. Mr Anwar may yet change Malaysia more than Dr Mahathir is prepared to allow.

CHEETAH CHARITY

Give this Christmas so that a cat can escape its enemies

Narrow and low among the seared grasses of the African savannah, the cheetah stalks. A predator streamlined by thousands of years of evolution to life on the plains. Its spotted coat melts into the earth and the shadows. The cheetah relies on stealth to stalk its victims. But speed carries it in for the kill. This light and long-boned creature is a supreme sprinter. Faster than any other land mammal, its claws, unlike those of related species, are only partly retractable and lack protective sheaths. They grip the ground like spiked track shoes. Ridged pads give traction on the wheeling turn. A long lithe spine and sweeping tail provide perfect balance as, outpacing its chosen prey, the cheetah snags at hindquarters with dragging dew claws, pouncing on its victim as it trips and tumbles.

But even at speeds of up to 70 miles an hour, the cheetah cannot outrun the threat of extinction. Once these supermodels of the cat world paced the plains of Africa, the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent. Now, largely as a result of human interference, fewer than 10,000 remain, these restricted to a narrowing area of eastern and southern Africa. Without a concerted campaign for their protection, they will dwindle and vanish, which is why *The Times* is nominating the Cheetah Project in the Serengeti National Park as one of its Christmas charities this year.

The plains of the Serengeti provide a perfect habitat for the cheetah - flat for racing, but with good scrub cover. But as this natural environment is slowly eroded by spreading human habitation, animals which would once have patrolled extensive territories find themselves crowded and in competition. Built for agility more than aggression, the cheetah cannot hold its own. As lion populations grow in the national park - they have doubled over the past 20 years - the more powerful predator steals the cheetah's kill or poaches its kittens which, left unattended at dawn and dusk while their mother hunts, rely on nothing but camouflage for protection. Hyenas too are ruthless carnivores. Only one in twenty cheetah cubs will survive the predations of these fiercer animals and reach independence at 18 months of age.

Even when they do, life is not assured. Safari vans frequently surround cheetahs, and though the cats' first response is to lie quiet - they cannot afford to waste energy - as their prey is scared away they wander beyond the bounds of the park to steal a goat from a tribesman's herd. Rehabilitation by shooting or poisoning is swift. The tourism which the cheetah helps to attract may be a sign of how much it is valued. But it has now become one of the marks of its end. If it is to outpace its extinction, this vulnerable animal needs our protection.

Flaws in plan to modernise criminal justice system

From Sir Michael Ogden, QC

Sir, In view of the devastatingly critical Gidwell report on the Crown Prosecution Service (report, June 2), the proposal in the Government's latest White Paper (reports, December 3) that the service should be granted rights of audience in the Crown Court seems to me very strange - certainly until such time as it can be said to perform its present tasks competently.

This will be rendered more difficult if it has to recruit in competition with a Criminal Defence Service. Perhaps the only advantage of that proposal would be that it would create a level playing field in that the defence would then be of the same standard as the prosecution.

A further problem which applies to all salaried lawyers being granted rights of audience in the higher courts is that, by definition, they are not truly independent. I can think of one very well-known businessman for whom I acted who, if I had been employed by him, would have dismissed me and employed someone who would have done anything the employer directed, however improper.

Lack of true independence is a particular problem in the case of salaried prosecutors. Promotion depends on success rates, and this can lead to more accepting of pleas of guilty to lesser charges than is proper. There is also the well-known temptation to fail to disclose to the defence things that should be disclosed.

I am particularly saddened by the fact that the Government is promoting this legislation on the back of suggestions that it is improper for some lawyers to earn as much as minor pop stars. It is also silly, given that several government ministers earned a large income at the Bar.

Prior to my retirement last year, I cannot recollect doing a legal case in, at least, the last 15 years. No one was obliged to employ me, or those ministers, or to pay the fees which our clerks asked, and we acted properly in seeking to earn well.

If the Government wishes to cut down on the standard of representa-

tion in legal aid cases, it should have the courage to say so and not attempt to hide behind assaults on so-called "fat cats", and, in the process, throw out the baby with the bathwater. It will be far more junior lawyers who will suffer, together with defendants and the general public. Certainly, it would be wise to start building a significant number of additional Court of Appeal courts.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL OGDEN,
2 Crown Office Row,
Temple, EC4Y 3TH,
December 6.

From the Chairman
of the Bar Council

Sir, In your leading article, "Silk cut" (December 4), you describe my concerns about the Lord Chancellor's White Paper, *Modernising Justice*, as a "predictable moan". Having spent 25 years prosecuting and defending in the criminal courts of this country, I can assure you that my comments were prompted by concern for the criminal justice system.

I accept that the legal aid system has lost the confidence of the public and must be brought under control. The Bar has long advocated a tightening of the merits test upon which legal aid is granted, so that unworthy cases are not funded by the State. We have also been working extremely hard with the Government on schemes for the payment of lawyers which will ensure that in the vast majority of legal aid cases, the barrister is paid a fixed or predetermined fee.

Despite our attempts at giving the Government the control over expenditure that they need, we now face the establishment of a different kind of state control: a Criminal Defence Service.

The White Paper boasts that its proposals are based on substantial consultation. Yet, the first we knew of the establishment of this new service, replacing the criminal legal aid system and with powers to represent a defendant from arrest to trial, was

when the White Paper was published on December 2.

The White Paper insists that the service will provide accused people with "a robust and competent defence, when the interests of justice require". Sadly, many lawyers around the world will tell you that their experience of public defender systems is the opposite. The Government assures us that it does not intend a US-style public defender system. I am far from confident, however, that the scheme proposed will be any different, in practice, from many which have proved so disastrous to criminal justice in other countries.

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER HALLETT,
Chairman,
The General Council of the Bar,
3 Bedford Row, WC1R 4DB,
chairman@barcouncil.org.uk
December 4.

From Mr Oliver Gravel

Sir, You report today on the proposal in the Government's White Paper to bring in a "no win, no fee" basis for divorcing couples "fighting" over assets.

There are, however, no "winners" when it comes to the division of the family assets on divorce. The family pot of assets - whether negligible or enormous - must be divided. Neither party will end up with as much as they had, together, as a family.

Currently, when a client comes to see me, the client may not know the full extent of their spouse's assets. It is not therefore possible at the outset to agree a baseline from which the client will "win" or "lose".

The danger in these proposals must be that initially clients will be given a low expectation of what they may achieve, in order to ensure that the lawyer will not be the loser.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER GRAVELL,
Russell Jones and Walker (solicitors),
Swinton House,
324 Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1X 8DH,
December 3.

Council grants

From the Leader of Surrey County Council and others

Sir, The local government finance settlement announced yesterday (report, December 3, later editions) could be subtitled "Our Friends in the North". This Government is determined to transfer resources from the South East to the urban North. The settlement gives the six county councils which we lead £40 million less than the Government led us to expect in its Comprehensive Spending Review. This is a serious blow for the six million people we serve. The cut in grant equates to an 8 per cent council tax increase, taken with inflation. The only other option we have is to cut services.

So do we cut teaching posts, just as we are required to reduce classes to 30? Do we reduce places in residential care homes, when "bed-blocking" is a major issue for us and our health service partners? Do we support fewer people in the community, increasing pressure on hospitals and residential homes? Or do we cut back on road maintenance, when concern is growing that roads are deteriorating and traffic accidents increasing?

'Cost-effective' councils

From Councillor Tony Dunn

Sir, Peter Riddell ("Don't forget the handbag", November 30) makes the sweeping statement: "The Blairites are right that local providers cannot at present be trusted [to improve public services] without... regulation" by the Treasury.

Even the Government's White Paper on local government reform admitted that some local authorities are doing an excellent job. Those of us in the shire counties who have lost substantial proportions of our central government funding, but remain capped, provide cost-effective services; this is demonstrated by high levels of satisfaction among our council tax payers and good reports from the external auditors.

These are the areas where pressure on salaries is highest, yet we are

losing grant support in real terms. As a result, our police force is cutting personnel, our local schools are losing £200 per head of capitation. Who cannot be trusted to improve local services?

Why do we thrifty county and district councils get bundled with the spendthrift authorities? The Government knows who they are. Isn't it time to send in the hit squads, and let us get on with the job within realistic, not arbitrary, financial controls?

Or is it because the spendthrift authorities are without exception Labour-controlled?

Yours sincerely,
TONY DUNN
(Conservative Member for Hambleton Valley District, Wycombe District Council, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP11 1BB,
November 30.

Decline of the South

From Commander T. V. G. Binney, RN (retd)

Sir, According to Radio Solent this morning, undertakers in the Isle of Wight are in trouble because "fewer people in the South are dying these days".

Is nothing in life certain any more? Why, they'll be reducing taxation next.

Yours faithfully,
GILES BINNEY,
Close Cottage,
Rogate, Petersfield,
Hampshire GU31 5HN,
December 3.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Children at risk on the streets

From the Chief Executive of The Children's Society

Sir, You are correct to say in your leader ("Checks on Care", December 1) that one of the signs of a civilised society is that the most vulnerable of its members are not left to fend for themselves. But it is wrong to suggest that children do not have to live on the streets in Britain.

Every year 43,000 children under 16 run away from home. An estimated 10,000 children run away ten times or more before they reach 16. In Britain there are three refuges for these children. Two are run by this society and are funded entirely by voluntary donations.

Until we are able to fund a national network of refuges and safe houses for children only a lucky few will end up getting help. The rest will be left to fend for themselves on the streets or risk seeking help from exploitative and dangerous adults.

We owe it to our most vulnerable children to offer them the same protection that we extend to others.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SPARKS,
Chief Executive,
The Children's Society,
Edward Rudolf House,
Margery Street, WC1X 9UL,
December 1.

Beastly comparisons

From Mr Alistair Sampson

Sir, This Simon Jenkins fellow, penner of "A tale of two Houses" in your journal today, is clearly an urban fox. Cranborne, who your Diary tells us is shooting today, most definitely did not say he had been sacked for running "like an ill-trained spaniel", but rather "running in like an ill-trained spaniel", ie, causing birds to fly at the wrong moment.

The bag so far would appear to be four cocks and two hens.

Yours etc,
ALISTAIR SAMPSON
Garrick Club,
15 Garrick Street, WC2E 9AY,
December 4.

From Mr William J. Meehan

Sir, Your Political Correspondent (report, December 4), touching lightly on aristocratic pen-naming, may have heard dowerers trilling Crosse and Blackwell or Humbley and Palmer, but the habit is much more widespread.

Villagers of Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, may recall my mother, Dorothy, alias no dowerer, rounding up her three Aylesbury ducklings at dusk each night in the autumn of 1941 by calling, "Freeman, Hardy and Willis".

Freeman and Hardy were devoured over Christmas. Willis lingered on a little longer before appearing on the table, to the words, "Alas, poor Willis".

Lilley and Skinner, her two Khaki Campbells, survived into old age, by their ability to lay an egg each day.

Yours faithfully,
W. J. MEEHAN,
28 Mill Road, Great Totham,
Maldon, Essex CM9 8DH,
December 4.

Publishing poetry

From the Bishop of Basingstoke

Sir, It was John Keble, Oxford Professor of Poetry from 1831 to 1841, who wrote in his *Lectures on Poetry* that "whenever the revolutionary or mercenary passion prevails forthwith a certain unreasoning contempt for poetry possesses men".

The discarding of its poetry list by Oxford University Press (letters, November 25 and 27; December 2) is a sad sign that he was right.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BASINGSTOKE,
Bishopwood End,
Kingswood Rise,
Four Marks, ALton GU34 5BD,
December 3.

Donor's dilemma

From Mr David Pearson

Sir, In sending gift parcels abroad by post (letters, November 26 and December 3) I am asked to complete a customs declaration and give the value of the contents. Should I quote a high value to impress the recipient or a low value to deter thieves?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PEARSON,
25 Bernard Street,
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 5QW,
December 3.

Heard but not seen

From Mr M. G. N. Whiting

Sir, When I asked our three-year-old son Harry what he thought his mother wanted for Christmas I was impressed when he replied "Lorjus". When he repeated this later, my wife (the better interpreter) confirmed that he was right, but identified the word as "Mortestas".

Yours etc,
GILES WHITING,
13 French Weir Avenue,
Taunton, Somerset TA1 1XQ,
December 5.

the children's father, was too upset to talk after the hearing. and about the robbery case. they tried to hammer a stake. assembled by Mr Rush.

OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Franchising
fall short of
European
prediction

Court of Appeal

Law Report December 8 1998

Court of Appeal

Bench memos not to be disclosed

Parker v Law Society

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hutton and Lord Justice Tuckey

Judgment December 4

Bench memoranda, prepared by judicial assistants in a case and drawn up to identify the issues in a case and draw attention to relevant authorities, which were provided to members of the court prior to the hearing of an appeal or application for leave to appeal, did not have to be disclosed to the parties.

However, the court would draw to the attention of the parties any matter which it was proposing to take into account which the parties would not already be aware of.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Anthony Bryden Parker against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Hooper) on February 20, 1997 to uphold the decision of the solicitors disciplinary tribunal on May 23, 1996 that he be struck off the roll of solicitors on grounds of serious professional misconduct.

The court gave one of the findings and reasons for its decision the weight of a finding of fact.

Mr Stephen Hockman, QC and Mr Mark Beard for Mr Parker on disclosure points. Mr Timothy Dutton, QC for the Law Society, Mr Parker in person on the substantive issue.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that for about two years the Court of Appeal had engaged judicial assistants to assist the court. They were usually young lawyers of the highest calibre who had recently been accepted as members of chambers or recently admitted solicitors who had been chosen to spend three months full-time or part-time as part of the staff of the Court of Appeal.

Their primary responsibility was to prepare bench memoranda and conduct research for members of the Court of Appeal. Their duties overlapped with those of the law clerks who were permanent members of the court staff.

The judicial assistants were of great benefit to the court. They assisted the court to understand what was the issues on an appeal.

That was especially important in cases involving litigation in person where the litigant in person frequently would not have prepared a skeleton argument.

They saved the time of members of the court by drawing to their attention relevant authorities decided in this jurisdiction or abroad.

The bench memoranda normally consisted of a summary of the facts involved in a particular appeal, a history of the proceedings in the lower courts and to that of the issues on the appeal and any opinion which the judicial assistant had on the merits of the appeal.

The bench memoranda would be provided to each member of the court hearing an appeal or application for leave to appeal, and would be supplemented by discussions between members of the court and the judicial assistant.

It was intended that the relation-

ship between members of the court and judicial assistants should be as close as possible. That was not only so that they could be of most help to the court but also so that they could benefit from working for a short period of time in close proximity to members of the court.

The tasks judicial assistants performed were intended to enable members of the court to perform their duties more effectively and to save the time of the court. The members of the court were, however, encouraged to provide feedback to the judicial assistants.

It was thought that that feedback could be of value to the judicial assistants in their future legal careers.

At the hearing of Mr Parker's application for leave to appeal, the court assistant had handed to him bundles which had been used by the court at the hearing, including with those bundles was the bench memorandum prepared by the judicial assistant for that hearing.

Mr Parker had expressed concern about the use of the bench memorandum by the Court of Appeal. He had described it as "a one-sided bench memorandum which contained the wrong facts". He had added that disclosure of the bench memorandum as a new ground on the hearing of his appeal.

The Court of Appeal had not intentionally ever disclosed a bench memorandum prepared for its use. It had not done so for reasons which included:

1 Disclosure would be inconsistent with the relationship between judicial assistants and members of the court and would inhibit judicial assistants from expressing their opinions.

2 Disclosure would result in unnecessary argument before the court as to whether the bench memoranda were accurate or the opinions which they expressed correct when they were only used by the members of the court as an aide to their preparations and regular members of the court took a different view of the facts or as to the outcome of the appeal from that of the judicial assistants.

3 Members of the court in any event would draw to the attention of the parties any matter which they were proposing to take into ac-

count of which the parties would not already be aware. They did not wish when their own research revealed information of that character and the same course would be adopted with regard to information provided by the judicial assistants.

4 It would be impractical to provide the parties with details of oral discussions between the judicial assistants and members of the court, especially if the discussions were immediately prior to the hearing, and to provide only written communications could be misleading.

The court was however aware that many other jurisdictions had much greater experience in the use of young lawyers to assist judges than this jurisdiction. The court had therefore communicated with a number of those jurisdictions, including the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The Law Society had also communicated with the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights to ascertain their practices.

The inquiries revealed that it was not their practice to make disclosure. That was the position although in those jurisdictions the use which was made of young lawyers was greater than in this jurisdiction.

His Lordship was of course aware of the practice in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division. On applications for leave to appeal in criminal cases, the members of the court were provided with a bench memorandum prepared by law-

clerks on the staff of that court. These bench memoranda were disclosed to applicants for leave to appeal prior to the hearing and they had an opportunity to correct the facts set out in those bench memoranda.

There were, however, distinctions between the position on an application for leave to appeal in a criminal case and a civil case.

In a criminal case only one of the three members of the court had a bundle containing all the case papers. The other two judges would therefore usually rely extensively on the information contained in

the bench memorandum.

In a civil case each member of the court involved in an application for leave or on an appeal had his own bundle of papers and would therefore read the original relevant material himself.

The relationship between lawyers employed by the criminal division of the Court of Appeal and the judiciary was also quite different from that between judicial assistants and members of the civil division.

His Lordship was confident that the court could be relied upon to recognise the importance of its responsibility to protect parties to appeals and applicants for leave to appeal from any risk of their being adversely affected by material of which the court was but of which they were not aware.

It was important to remember the court gave a judgment which would give the court's reasons for reaching its decision and which would make clear the information on which the court relied.

Frequently ministers had to act in a quasi judicial capacity but despite that being the position, they received advice from civil servants which was not disclosed to the parties provided that it did not raise a new issue with which an interested person had no opportunity to deal.

It was not without significance that while Mr Parker had complained about the memorandum which was prepared for his application for leave to appeal, leave to appeal had been given.

The criticisms which he made of the particular bench memorandum were unjustified. It was a very fair summary and it contained no information of which he needed to be aware.

His Lordship was satisfied that there was no danger that the present practice of not disclosing bench memoranda would prejudice an applicant or would be prejudicial to the public interest.

His Lordship was satisfied that there was no danger that the present practice of not disclosing bench memoranda would prejudice an applicant or would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Lord Justice Hutton and Lord Justice Tuckey agreed.

Solicitors: Bar Pro Bono Unit; Percy Hughes & Roberts, Birkbeck.

Ferrishurst Ltd v Wallcliffe Ltd

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Rix

Judgment November 30

A person in actual occupation of a part of the land comprised in a registered disposition could enforce against the registered proprietor any overriding interest which he had either in the land, or part of the land, occupied by him, or in the remainder, or part of the remainder, of the land comprised in the registered disposition in question.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Ferrishurst Ltd, against the dismissal by Judge Wallcliffe at Central London County Court on February 24, 1998 of the plaintiffs' claim for specific performance of a contract to acquire a leasehold interest in offices which they occupied together with a garage occupied by a third party, being part of land owned by the defendants, Wallcliffe Ltd, under registered title NGL 307/88.

The plaintiffs occupied the offices under a four-year sub-underlease dated October 1, 1984. The sub-underlease contained an option at the end of that term to purchase the underlease which also included an adjoining garage occupied under a separate sub-underlease by a Mr Wellbank.

In February 1988, the defendants became owners of the freehold interest in the underlease and the registered proprietors of the land registered under title NGL 357/86.

Mr Alexander Hill-Smith for the plaintiffs; Mr Paul Staddon for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that the judge had to decide whether the option to ac-

quire the reversion, not merely in the defined premises, but in the whole of the building, bound the defendants despite the fact that no entry relating to the option appeared on the defendants' registered title.

He concluded that he was bound by *Ashburn Anstalt v Arnold* [1989] Ch 1 that section 70(1)(g) of the Land Registration Act 1925, on overriding interests, assessed the plaintiffs' only as the claimant or should not decree specific performance as to part only of the premises comprised in the underlease.

By section 3(1)(v) of the 1925 Act "overriding interests" were defined, so far as material, as all encumbrances, interests, rights and claims not entered in the register but subject to which registered dispositions are, by the Act, to take effect.

Sections 20 and 23 provided for the effect of registered disposition of freeholds and leaseholds respectively.

Section 70 provided for the liability of registered land to overriding interests. Subsection (1) stated that all registered land should, unless the register provided to the contrary, be deemed to be subject to the overriding interests specified in the ensuing paragraphs, which included:

(a) The rights of every person in actual occupation of the land or in receipt of the rents and profits thereof, save where enquiry is made of that person and the rights are not disclosed.

One parcel of land might be the subject of more than one registered title. The references in section 20(1), 23(1) and 70(1) to entries on the register had to be understood as refer-

ring to the entries relating to the title to the particular estate, comprised in the registered disposition, or out of which a registered disposition took effect.

The general scheme and effect of those provisions had been considered by the House of Lords in *Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd v Boland* [1981] AC 467. Lord Wilberforce, in a speech with which the rest of the Lordships concurred, said at p604:

"Whether a particular right is an overriding interest, and whether it affects a purchaser, is to be decided upon the terms of section 70, and upon nothing else. In the case of registered land, it is the fact of occupation that matters. If there is actual occupation and the occupation has rights, the purchaser takes subject to them."

In *Ashburn*, the Court of Appeal had held at p28 that the overriding interest related to the land occupied but not anything further. It did not appear what arguments, if any, were addressed to the court on that point.

Mr Hill-Smith's main submission for the defendants was that *Ashburn* was wrongly decided and that the present court was entitled to follow it because the decision was inconsistent with the reasoning of the House of Lords in *National Provincial Bank v Ainsworth* [1965] AC 1175 and *Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd v Boland*.

The present court could and should examine *Ashburn* to see whether it could stand with the reasoning of the House of Lords in *Boland* and their Lordships' approval of the reasoning in *Webb v Polmont* [1906] Ch 584 and

Hodson v Marks [1971] Ch 893.

The principles which could be extracted from the authorities were:

1 The function of overriding interests in registered conveyancing was comparable to that of notice, actual, constructive or imputed, but there were significant differences and the burden on a purchaser to make inquiries was now heavier than before.

2 The rights of an occupier of registered land were to be distinguished from the fact of his occupation. The capacity in which a person occupied, for instance as a tenant, need not be indicative of the right which he claimed, for instance, an option to purchase the freehold reversion of an unexpired lease.

3 The occupier need not, in order to rely on section 70(1)(g), be in actual occupation of the whole of the land comprised in a registered disposition, whether that disposition was from the registered proprietor, or from a transferee of the whole, or a transfer of part, or a demise or other disposition taking effect in relation to the whole or part.

If the court in *Ashburn* had been referred to the House of Lords' authority which established those points, it would have concluded that a person in actual occupation of a part of the land comprised in a registered disposition could enforce against the registered proprietor any overriding interest which he had either in the land, or part of the land, occupied by him, or in the remainder, or part of the remainder, of the land comprised in the registered disposition in question.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Jim McKenzie & Co, Walter Jennings & Son.

Count in VAT indictment defective

Regina v Stanley

Before Lord Justice Brooke, Mr Justice Kay and Mr Justice Maurice Kay

Judgment September 17

A count in an indictment charging an offence under section 72B of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 in respect of two different aspects of the duty to account for value-added tax, one in relation to the under-statement of output tax and the other relating to false claims in respect of input tax, was defective in so far as it did not properly allow the jury to determine whether the accused, if guilty at all, was guilty of one or both of the distinct allegations of fraudulent evasion.

The Crown did not accept that the appellant's argument was limited to the extent reflected by the proposed basis of plea and concluded, in the light of that proposed plea, that the single count indictment might have been flawed, in that it allowed guilty pleas or convictions which left at large or unresolved the question of the amount of tax evaded and the means by which it had been evaded.

An application was therefore made to the trial judge in a preliminary hearing to amend the indictment so as to split the single count into two separate counts in identical terms, save that the first count was to contain particulars of conduct allegations relating to the false under-statement of output tax and the second related to false claims of credit for input tax.

The judge concluded that he had power to permit the amendment

judgment of the court, said that when arraigned the appellant pleaded not guilty but subsequently indicated, through his legal advisers, that he was prepared to change his plea to guilty only on the basis that he admitted fraudulent conduct in respect of the input tax but not the output tax allegations.

The Crown did not accept that the appellant's argument was limited to the extent reflected by the proposed basis of plea and concluded, in the light of that proposed plea, that the single count indictment might have been flawed, in that it allowed guilty pleas or convictions which left at large or unresolved the question of the amount of tax evaded and the means by which it had been evaded.

An application was therefore made to the trial judge in a preliminary hearing to amend the indictment so as to split the single count into two separate counts in identical terms, save that the first count was to contain particulars of conduct allegations relating to the false under-statement of output tax and the second related to false claims of credit for input tax.

The judge concluded that he had power to permit the amendment

just to the appellant, in particular the application to amend being said to be a device by the prosecution to circumvent the appellant's basis of plea and not made because the prosecution genuinely believed the indictment to be defective.

The Court of Appeal had given a wide meaning to the word "defective" in section 8(1) so as to render indictments capable of deciding

the issue that properly should be determined between the Crown, on the one hand, and the defendants on the other.

The issue that had to be resolved was whether the Crown were right in their submission that, where there were distinct types of conduct which could clearly be separated and put separately, they could be put into separate counts in the same indictment.

Their Lordships were entirely satisfied that that was a proper interpretation of the statute: that such matters could be separated in the way that the Crown had indicated and chosen to separate them in this case.

This was a case where the indictment could properly be put into the form to which the Crown had amended it: there were good reasons why that should be done, and the indictment could properly be said to be defective in those circumstances.

Their Lordships were satisfied that there was no prejudice. Those were issues that had to be resolved and it was desirable, if possible, that they were resolved by a jury rather than a judge.

Solicitors: Hadams, Walsall; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Time when domicile of co-defendant is relevant

Petrograde Inc and another v Smith and others

The time when the domicile of a co-defendant is relevant for the purposes of the Brussels Convention 1968 was the time the proceedings were originally issued and not when an additional defendant was joined or when a new writ or by service of that amended writ.

Mr Justice Thomas so stated in chambers in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on December 19, 1997, allowing the application of the second and third defendants to set aside service upon them in Belgium of the writ in the action.

Article 6 of the Brussels Convention, scheduled to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, provides:

"A person domiciled in a contracting state may also be sued: (i) where he is one of a number of defendants, in the courts for the place where any one of them is domiciled."

His Lordship said that the second and third defendants were companies domiciled in Belgium. The English proceedings were begun in 1993 and the second and third defendants were served in Belgium in 1997.

They contended that the first defendant was not domiciled in England in 1993 and therefore they could not be joined.

The plaintiffs did not have a good arguable case that the first defendant was domiciled in England in 1993. The time of service of the original proceedings was the relevant time and therefore service was to be set aside.

Lord Justice Hutton and Lord Justice Tuckey agreed.

Solicitors: Bar Pro Bono Unit; Percy Hughes & Roberts, Birkbeck.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

SCOTCH OFFICE

NOVEMBER 1998

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT 1936

BAITRACK (WAVELEY STATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application by Petition under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1936, has been made to the Secretary of State, Edinburgh, for the purpose of the following:

(a) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(b) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(c) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(d) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(e) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(f) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(g) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(h) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(i) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(j) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(k) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(l) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(m) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(n) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(o) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(p) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(q) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(r) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(s) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(t) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(u) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(v) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(w) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(x) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(y) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(z) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(aa) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(ab) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(ac) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(ad) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(ae) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(af) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(ag) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(ah) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(ai) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(aj) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(ak) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(al) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

LEGAL NOTICES

THE EMPLOYMENT ACT 1996

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application by Petition under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1936, has been made to the Secretary of State, Edinburgh, for the purpose of the following:

(a) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(b) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(c) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(d) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(e) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(f) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(g) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(h) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(i) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(j) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(k) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(l) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(m) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(n) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

(o) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;

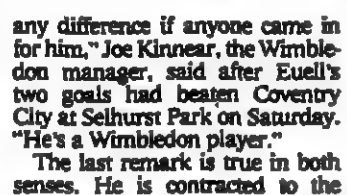
(p) to amend or repeal certain local statutory provisions relating to the Baitrack in the City of Edinburgh and to limit the powers of the Council of the City of Edinburgh in relation to the Baitrack;



Unless you count Vinnie Jones and possibly John Fashanu, Wimbledon, the football club, not the tennis venue - has never really been associated with star names. Top-class professionals, certainly: Robbie Earle, Chris Perry, Efan Ekoku and other current members of the Dons' squad would all command seven-figure fees if they were allowed to leave; but not the big names whom the punters flock to see. No Paul Gascoigne. Michael Owen or David Beckham.

One day, and it might come sooner than you think, that could change. For several seasons now, the staff at Wimbledon's training ground in Roehampton have spoken of a rough diamond in the ranks, waiting to be unleashed on the Premiership. And unlike previous products of the Wimbledon youth system, this one was said to be just as good as Warren Barton, John Scales and Terry Heathon, however. Lambeth-born Jason Euell is not going anywhere.

"He has five years left on his contract here, but it wouldn't make



Kinnear first saw Euell, the new Fantasy player of the week (pictured opposite), as a 13-year-old and has promoted him through the levels. Now, at 21, he is a first-

team regular, as well as a member of Peter Taylor's successful England under-21 squad.

Injuries, and Kinnear's desire to protect his young prospects from over-exposure to the rigours of the top level, have meant that this is the first season in which Ruell can be regarded as a first-choice (he has missed only one league game this season), and he has played in midfield as well as the forward position which is more familiar, and where he appears in the Fantasy League lists. On Saturday, he switched at half-time, pushing up and scoring the two goals that secured victory for his team.

"He's such an honest kid that wherever you stick him, he is going to cause problems for the opposition," Kinnear said. "We think he has great England potential. He has pace, vision, can score goals and has never let me down."

As a goalscorer (he has six goals this season), he would be a useful addition to any Fantasy League team at £5.4 million. With his potential for assists as a midfield player, he could be doubly valuable.



Myhre: three more points

Guppy: another assist

Keown: top centre-back

Bowyer: double strike

Hasselbaink: 29 points

HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make

sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before

entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

LUCKY DIP If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Football.sagepub.com

TO ENTER BY PHONE Call 0640 67 88 99 (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-tone (DTMF)

phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit play codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 80p per

minutes. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates. Calls from payphones cost approximately double.



All information provided by Fantasy League Ltd ©
© Fantasy League Ltd

Promoter: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 495,
Migdale Street, London E1 3JY.

THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM				
Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities.				
FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters) <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 1em;"></div>				
LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box <input type="checkbox"/>				
CODE	GOALKEEPER NAME	CLUB	POINTS	VALUE
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>
			£	m
CODE	FULL-BACK NAME	CLUB	POINTS	VALUE
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>
			£	m
CODE	FULL-BACK NAME	CLUB	POINTS	VALUE
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>
			£	m
CODE	CENTRE-BACK NAME	CLUB	POINTS	VALUE
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>
			£	m
CODE	CENTRE-BACK NAME	CLUB	POINTS	VALUE
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>
			£	m
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	POINTS	VALUE
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>
			£	m
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	POINTS	VALUE
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>
			£	m
CODE	FORWARD NAME	CLUB	POINTS	VALUE
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>
			£	m
CODE	FORWARD NAME	CLUB	POINTS	VALUE
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px;"></div>
			£	m
MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM				TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m) £ <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 50px;"></div>

I also wish to enter the Youth League (please tick) ☐

I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. Date of birth

First Name Surname

Address

Postcode Daytime tel

Cheque/PO no (payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd)

Credit card number: Expiry date: /

MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card

Supply address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above Signature

Send with £2.50 entry fee (£10 starting for entrants outside the UK or RoI) to:
The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday
☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers Limited, please tick box ☐

Columns show: code, name, club, week, value, total points, valuation(m).

[illegible]

FIELD RACKS

2034	R Banks	ARS	1	5	3.5	448	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2035	T Bandy	ARS	1	19	7.0	449	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2036	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	450	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2037	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	451	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2038	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	452	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2039	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	453	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2040	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	454	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2041	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	455	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2042	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	456	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2043	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	457	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2044	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	458	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2045	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	459	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2046	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	460	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2047	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	461	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2048	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	462	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2049	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	463	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2050	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	464	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2051	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	465	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2052	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	466	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2053	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	467	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2054	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	468	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2055	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	469	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2056	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	470	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2057	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	471	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2058	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	472	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2059	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	473	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2060	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	474	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2061	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	475	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2062	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	476	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2063	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	477	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2064	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	478	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2065	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	479	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2066	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	480	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2067	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	481	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2068	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	482	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2069	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	483	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2070	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	484	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2071	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	485	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2072	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	486	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2073	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	487	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2074	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	488	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2075	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	489	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2076	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	490	B Sherry	EVE	0	0	0	4.0
2077	R Banks	ARS	1	19	7.0	49						

GENITIVE RACKS

305	Saudi	ARS	3	3.8	436	J Monaco	WES	0	0	3.4
306	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	437	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
307	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	438	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
308	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	439	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
309	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	440	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
310	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	441	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
311	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	442	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
312	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	443	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
313	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	444	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
314	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	445	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
315	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	446	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
316	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	447	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
317	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	448	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
318	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	449	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
319	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	450	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
320	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	451	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
321	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	452	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
322	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	453	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
323	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	454	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
324	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	455	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
325	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	456	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
326	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	457	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
327	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	458	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
328	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	459	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
329	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	460	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
330	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	461	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
331	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	462	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
332	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	463	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
333	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	464	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
334	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	465	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
335	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	466	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
336	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	467	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
337	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	468	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
338	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	469	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
339	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	470	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
340	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	471	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
341	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	472	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
342	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	473	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
343	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	474	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
344	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	475	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
345	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	476	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
346	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	477	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
347	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	478	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
348	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	479	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
349	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	480	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
350	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	481	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
351	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	482	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
352	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	483	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
353	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	484	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
354	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	485	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
355	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	486	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
356	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	487	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4
357	Yemen	ARS	3	3.8	488	P Mexico	WES	0	12	3.4

18 **IS Luxembourg** www.luxembourg.gov.lu
19 **IS Denmark** www.danmark.dk

361	M February	CHE	0	0	3.5	801	L West	ARS	0	0	0	8.4
362	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	802	N Hanks	ARS	0	0	28	8.0
363	F March	CHE	0	16	4.2	803	R Adams	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
364	G Brown	COV	0	2	3.0	804	G York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
365	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	805	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
366	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	806	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
367	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	807	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
368	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	808	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
369	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	809	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
370	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	810	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
371	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	811	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
372	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	812	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
373	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	813	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
374	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	814	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
375	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	815	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
376	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	816	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
377	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	817	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
378	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	818	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
379	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	819	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
380	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	820	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
381	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	821	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
382	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	822	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
383	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	823	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
384	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	824	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
385	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	825	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
386	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	826	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
387	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	827	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
388	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	828	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
389	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	829	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
390	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	830	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
391	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	831	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
392	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	832	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
393	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	833	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
394	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	834	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
395	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	835	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
396	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	836	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
397	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	837	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
398	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	838	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
399	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	839	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
400	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	840	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
401	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	841	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
402	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	842	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
403	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	843	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
404	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	844	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0
405	F March	CHE	0	0	3.5	845	C York	ARS	0	0	0	8.0

Double for Dublin and Dubliner

The Fantasy League monthly £1,000 winner from County Dublin owed much to Hurricane Dion, Nick Szczepanik reports

If The Times Fantasy League had a player of the month award, there would be a shortlist of only one for the November prize. Dion Dublin's 21 points were evidence of an exceptional 30 days of goalscoring for Aston Villa.

Thus it was more or less inevitable that Dublin would be in the team selected by winner of the Times Fantasy League monthly prize of £1,000 plus £100 worth of sports equipment. Less predictable was that the winner would, in turn, be a Dubliner.

Tony Murnaghan, of County Dublin, in the Republic of Ireland, had the Villa man to thank for over a quarter of the 81 points accumulated by his selection, Tony's Terrors. "I nearly made a major faux pas," Mr Murnaghan, who works as a banker, said. "It was him and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink who were doing the business, and I transferred Hasselbaink out and Tore Andre Flo in, but I got away with it." Apart from big Dion, all his players contributed; Paul Scholes and Allan Nielsen weighed in with eight points each, and Flo, in the end, came up with a valuable seven.

"The team was doing nothing until November, then in the space of two weeks it all came together," Mr Murnaghan confessed. A key signing was Michael Ball, of Everton, transferred in at the expense of Andy Hinchcliffe. "I missed him at the start, but Everton had two games in one week and that's when I made the transfer; I got a double benefit."

His win was some consolation for the fate of the team he has supported since the mid-sixties, West Ham United, who were thumped 4-0 at Leeds — too late, fortunately, to affect Ian Pearce's score adversely, although it ruffled count against Tony's Terrors at the end of the season, as they attempt to improve on their current sixth place and go for the title. Mr Murnaghan, a regular player, was also complimentary about The Times Fantasy League itself. "The format and structures appealed to me the most. And thanks to direct dialling, it's easy for us to play in Ireland."

This can be a very expensive time of year, and, for people in certain occupations, a busy one too. Phil Oxlade of London, who works for Royal Mail, will still have to work hard over the coming weeks, but the weekly winner's prize of £500 plus £100 worth of sports equipment should help to spread the financial load.

Mr Oxlade, a Tottenham supporter, included David Ginola in his team, Phil's Hotshots, but his big points-scorer was Jason Euell of Wimbledon (see opposite and right), Leeds United's Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Steve Guppy of Leicester.

"Jason Euell was cheap, and had



The current Tony's Terrors:

D. Dion (ARS)	6
S. Guppy (LEI)	6
M. Ball (EVE)	6
I. Pearce (WES)	4
A. Nielsen (DER)	4
P. Scholes (MAN)	3
F. Hasselbaink (MID)	3
A. Nielsen (TOT)	3
D. Dublin (COV)	2
T. A. Flo (CHE)	7

Total: 81 points in November

been going through a good spell earlier in the season," Mr Oxlade said. "Hasselbaink was also in very good form earlier. Guppy always scores a lot of points, because he takes free kicks and corners and Leicester have a lot of tall players." "That point was proved on Saturday, when Fantasy League entrants with Guppy in their teams benefited from the three points he collected from his contribution to Leicester's clean sheet against Southampton, and a two-point assist when his free kick set up their second goal."

Mr Oxlade's forays into the transfer market also bore fruit last week. Three of the four players he has brought in, Callum Davidson of Blackburn, Frank Lehoucq of Chelsea and Patrik Berger of Liverpool, each contributed three points to his overall total of 28.

Phil's Hotshots:

D. Ginola (ARS)	3
J. Euell (WIM)	3
S. Guppy (LEI)	3
F. Hasselbaink (MID)	3
P. Scholes (MAN)	3
I. Pearce (WES)	3
A. Nielsen (TOT)	3
D. Dublin (COV)	3
T. A. Flo (CHE)	3
J. Euell (WIM)	3

Total: 28 points in a week



Equally at home in the front line and powering forward from midfield, Jason Euell of Wimbledon, who lists Bad Boys Inc. among his favourite listening, could be a good buy for your Fantasy League team. Why not give yourself a seasonal treat and sign him in time for Christmas, and have a Cool Euell Yule?

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100		
1	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United
2	James Walsh	Tigers Army
3	Brian Highdale	Dave's Deans FC
4	Sean Eastwood	Coen Brothers
5	John Wallis	Fusegas
6	David Young	Dave 10
7	Tony Murnaghan	Tony's Terrors
8	David Walker	Just A Second FC
9	James Riley	The Promix Stars
10	I. Samuels	Spartak Moscow
11	Michael Langdon	Hermaphrodites
12	Robert Anderson	Roberts Rovers
13	Martin White	Grampus Gunners
14	Thomas Meakin	It's All Stars
15	Robert Little	Broken Arrow
16	David Mead	In The City
17	Nicholas Hinchley	These Eat Beans
18	Roda Hilder	Picadillys
19	Sean Morgan	Di Not Again Ref
20	Richard Deane	Not Athletic
21	Terry Butler	Don Don Dion
22	James McGregor	Do I Need Overit
23	Stuart Bratton	Maggys Penn
24	Ian Dunning	Unit De Dunning
25	Dorothy Robinson	Globigemma
26	David Perry	YeahYeahYeahYeah
27	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington
28	William Mann	Lepidopterians
29	Rory Weller	No name
30	Darren Brannigan	Monday Moaners
31	Matthew Forster	Martys Monsters
32	Robin Playdon	Robins Raiders
33	Nigel Kelly	Kalbs Kings 8
34	Murray Macmillan	Murray's Marvels
35	Steve Onger	Lokomotiv No Go
36	Jonathan Bewick	Bezzers Boyz
37	Richard Deane	On The Wagon
38	Simon Thompson	Bush Reels
39	Philip Morton	Skull Venti
40	Michael Lynn	Summosunter
41	Andrew James Spencer	This Ones Mine
42	Phil Taylor	Peter 7
43	Marian Knagman	Revolution 1
44	Gillian Rose	Bernie's Bees
45	Ron Mosham	Biggles XI
46	Alan Lawrie	Throw In Muscs
47	Malcolm Angus	Vin's Magicians
48	Peter Finch	Cheam Raiders
49	David Harrison	Five Star Fish
50	Michael Vanden	Porno Flick
51	Willis Tappin	Yokosunder
52	Pauline Hoggarth	Trumpetuesday
53	Bob Clubs	Scp16s
54	James Kerr	Serious Squad
55	Michael Scallie	Alidoweslido
56	Ron Allport	Cyclones
57	Bob Holden	Bob's Babes
58	O. Osborne	George F C
59	Colin Head	Headstart Gunard
60	Karen Sharpe	Karen's Kickers
61	Anthony Stansby	Stansby's XI
62	David Swettenham	Titus All Stars
63	David Tiley	Titus FC
64	Don Shuter	Don S
65	John Luffield	Solid At The Back
66	C. Sharpe	Sunfish Stars
67	Keith Davies	Less Eleven
68	Stephen Marshall	Dortheacaway
69	Alan Wootton	Tyneside Army 94
70	Neil Bradbrook	Chapelton Elite
71	Robert Kirk	Cosmic 98
72	A. Canales	Goncase 1
73	Paul Cates	Euro Stars
74	Kevin Styler	Champion League
75	Shaneen Taylor	Premier Two
76	Mr E. Bruno	Perry Tubes
77	John Mell	Mellon United
78	Steve Martin	Rough And Smooth
79	Yusef Sadiq	Fantasy One
80	Sanjay Chopra	Alstars F C
81	Peter Sherlock	Rocket Science
82	Yusef Sadiq	To Tomatoes
83	W. W. W. W.	Colour Me Blue
84	Alan Finlayson	We Hate Beckham
85	Tony Burns	Barrett St Boys
86	A. P. Howard	Sudo Suburban
87	Glen Reynolds	Wb 20
88	Neil Perkins	Penny Antlers
89	Alan Garton	Loose Rollers
90	Ivica Cipric	Crobel
91	Alan Laird	Get The Wine In
92	Mike Hawke	Holyump Yagler
93	Nickie Howell	Nickie City
94	Joan Wickham	The Unclubables
95	Zane Radcliffe	One Paul Byrne
96	Alan Featherstone	Latersdaysteam
97	George Williamson	Survivors 2
98	Alan Cooke	Oak Bush Orioles
99	Tim Handcomb	Tim's Tomatoes
100	Plus 14 others on 154 points	

As I was saying...

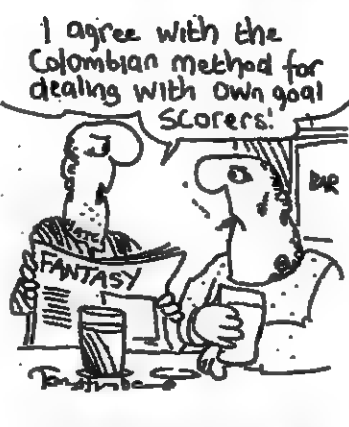
It's been an inconclusive sort of week, hasn't it? How do you mean? Well, the big game at Villa Park ended in a draw, and Arsenal were goalless at Derby, and Chelsea the same at Everton.

There's more to football than a few top glamour clubs, you know. And what about Tottenham against Liverpool? That was a big match if ever there was one, and it featured a top goal from Patrik Berger. He's not in either of my Fantasy League teams.

And what about that stunner from Jamie Carragher? Yes, I enjoyed that. Just a pity it was at the wrong end. That was worth three Fantasy League points if anything is.

In a way, though, it does count. A defender scoring an own goal prevents his team getting a clean sheet, and can dump him into the minus points if they let in enough goals.

Unfortunately, your point does not apply in this case. Babb, Stannum, Heggem and Bjornby got a minus score thanks to the two goals the team let in, but Carragher, because he is listed as a midfield player, doesn't lose any points.



Yes, that does seem rather unfair, now I come to think of it. But I suppose it serves Liverpool right for trying to get away with playing a midfield man in the centre of defence.

In fact, it's arguable whether he really is a midfield player or a defender, isn't it? I certainly remember that he began his career in the first team in midfield, but Liverpool seem to think he is more of a back.

Well, Saturday might have changed their minds.

Not at all. Own goals are part and parcel of defending. If you're doing your job, you're going to be in there in the danger area when the ball comes flying across, and the occasional unlucky deflection is an occupational hazard.

Come to think of it, Colin Cooper's goal for Middlesbrough was more than a touch of a deflection about it, and so did Julian Joachim's against Manchester United, which proves your point. In both cases, the goalkeeper seemed to have come out to block the shots, but the deflections took them over their heads.

Yes, but don't ask me whether the players who deflected them, Aaron Hughes and Dennis Irwin, should qualify for assists. Only members of the attacking team get them. It's in the rules.

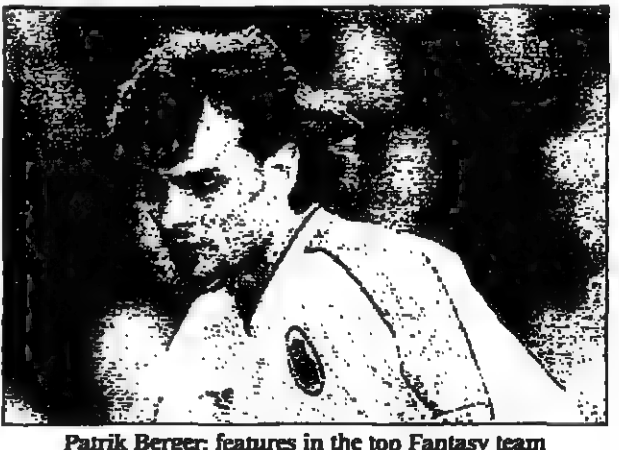
But are you saying that players should get out of the way and leave the goalkeeper to deal with shots? It is what keepers are paid for, after all. No, I'm afraid defenders have to do the right thing, and hang the consequences. Just don't pick a goalkeeper who gets out of the way and leaves the net to deal with shots.

Now, that could be where I've been going wrong.

CHECK YOUR SCORES
TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP TEN

1	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	168
2	Peter Finch	Cheam Raiders	158
3	David Swettenham	Titus All Stars	156
4	David McCutcheon	The Fluff Rags	154
5	William Sargeant	Box Kid FC	152
6	Chris Hill	Hillbillys Utd 3	152
7	Alan Carter	The Puffpuffs	151
8	Robert Liddell	The Hill Billies	151
9	Richard Burton	No Fear	150
10	Catherine Conway	Spinalia City	149



Patrik Berger: features in the top Fantasy team

Shearer makes his point at the top of the list

WE HAVE already featured the up and coming youngsters in The Times Fantasy League, so it's time to look at the more experienced campaigners.

You can be sure that a Fantasy League donkey will not turn out to be a Maradona overnight, and conversely a player with a proven past record is not transformed into a Fantasy League star in the space of a week. A look at player performances in years gone by can give a fair indication of what to expect in the future.

Browsing through the Fantasy League archives, it comes as no surprise to that Alan Shearer is top of the all-time Fantasy League points scorers. His 576 points since 1991-92 puts him well clear in

the Hall of Fame. Despite being plagued with injury for two of these seasons, his points per match ratio is phenomenal.

Shearer also had three consecutive hundred-pointers at his peak in 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Ian Wright's seasonal tallies have also tailed off slightly, but he still averages an impressive 67 points per season and is on course for a similar total in this campaign. Les Ferdinand also averages more than 60 points a season, although he will have to remain injury-free for much of the remainder of this season to achieve this target once again.

The leading Fantasy League midfielder is, unsurprisingly, Matt Le Tissier who is still well capable of a 60-point season. Le

Tissier peaked in the mid-Nineties with consecutive season totals of 95 and 91, which will not be surpassed by another midfielder for a long time to come.

It seems strange to consider Giggs, Beckham and Scholes as experienced Fantasy League campaigners but they have

TRANSFER LINE
Want to make one of your 12 transfers?
Call
0640 62 51 03
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute.
Ex-UK calls charged at national rates

demonstrated that they are all in the 40-point per season category, with Beckham almost certainly the most reliable.

Since records began, it is the Manchester United and Arsenal defences which come out on top and although United seem to be struggling defensively this season, Arsenal are once again top of the tree.

However, at the other end of the scale, the likes of David Batty and Carlton Palmer have demonstrated that they are not quite cut out for Fantasy League. Batty's defensive midfield role has led to an average of fewer than ten points per season, and although Palmer did manage to hit the dizzy heights of 21 points in the 1994-95 season, he too struggles

BEST-EVER XI

Fantasy League XI (one per club)	pts
Dennis Irwin (MAN)	235
Dennis Irwin (MAN)	377
Graeme Le Saux (CHE)	203
Gary Pallister (MID)	283
David Wetherall (LEE)	196
Matt Le Tissier (SOU)	456
Steve McNamara (LIV)	269
Ruel Fox (TOT)	237
Robbo Earle (WIM)	228
Alan Shearer (NEW)	576
Ian Wright (WES)	495

to get into double figures. In the light of this, if you have either of these two players in your side it could be wise to delve into the transfer market.

MATT KINGS

Last week we presented you with pictures of Nicola Bert, Dean Gordon, David James and Geoff Thomas. As the most acute among you worked out, their surnames are also the names of characters in the Rev W Awdry's Thomas The Tank Engine series (Gordon, James and Thomas are railway engines; Bertie is a bus).

Can you identify what this week's four Fantasy League performers have in common? Answer next week

PRIZES

£500 weekly Fantasy League prize
£1,000 monthly Fantasy League prize
£250,000 to the runner-up
£25,000 for third place
£2,500 monthly prizes for the top 100 Fantasy League players
£1,000 weekly prizes for the top 10 Fantasy League players
£500 weekly prizes for the top 10 Fantasy League players

FANTASY LEAGUE FAXBACK SERVICE

To receive a comprehensive breakdown of your team's performance two or three times a week, the service will be updated by noon every Tuesday.

Make sure you have your 10-digit PIN to hand when you call.

Pick up the handset of your fax machine (if you do not have a handset then press the on-hook or telephone button) and dial 0991 123 720 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4280).

Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked.

If you have any problems using this service call 0171 412 3795.

YOUR FAXBACK SERVICE
0991 123 720
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

Calls cost £1 per minute (ex-UK numbers charged at national rates)

BER 8 1998
INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY
Court

INSIDE
SECTION

2
TODAY

ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky on
the Blundersbank's
last hurrah
PAGE 31

ARTS

Is he still sexy?
Rod Stewart hits
the road again
PAGES 35-37

LAW

Mad or bad: how
the courts deal
with insanity
PAGES 39-41

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
Pages
50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8 1998

US state drops Microsoft suit

By Kimberly McDonald

BILL GATES breathed a little easier yesterday when the state of South Carolina announced that it was pulling out of the anti-trust suit against Microsoft, leaving 19 states and the US Justice Department to pursue the charges.

The first to pull out of the case, Charles Condon, South Carolina's Attorney General, said in a statement that he was moved to quit the case following America Online's recent announcement of plans to acquire Netscape Communications — the Microsoft competitor — and to form an

Pressure on Gates eases as Netscape deal prompts withdrawal

alliance with Sun Microsystems. The proposed merger "proves the forces of competition are working", Mr Condon said.

"I can no longer justify our continued involvement or the expenditure of state resources on a trial that has been made moot by the actions of the competitive marketplace."

A spokesman for Microsoft said: "We're pleased with the news and hope the other states follow the lead of South Carolina."

Shares of Microsoft jumped to a new high on the news, briefly trading at \$132.75 before settling back to \$131.25, up \$4.87 in heavy afternoon trading.

An emboldened Mr Gates held a press conference via satellite yesterday, giving reporters their first opportunity to confront him directly. He said that the rapidly changing landscape of the computer industry undermined the case against his company.

"When you look at the AOL-Netscape deal, it's hard to believe that the Govern-

ment can still press their case with a straight face," Mr Gates said. "Three of the biggest competitors are banking together and yet the Government is still trying to slow us down."

The trial will begin its eighth week today in the federal court in Washington.

Trial watchers said South Carolina's decision may be a significant morale boost to the Microsoft camp but doubted that it would draw a substantial enough following to close down the Govern-

ment's case. Most analysts doubted other states would follow suit.

"This case has nothing to do with whether there are 20 parties or one party, and has everything to do with the evidence that's in the court," said Mitchell Pettit, executive director of ProComp, a coalition that supports the Government's case.

"The AOL-Netscape merger has nothing to do with Microsoft. AOL has a significant influence in the online space but has no desktop leverage

as Microsoft has," said Ross Rubin, senior research officer at Jupiter Communications.

The suit alleges that Microsoft engaged in predatory, anti-competitive practices. One of the more contentious issues of the trial charges that Microsoft exploited its dominance of the operating systems market to stifle competition from Netscape and to stake out a similar position in Internet-related products.

Microsoft acknowledges having been a vigorous competitor but insists that its

practices have been perfectly legal. Company attorneys likewise argued that the AOL-Netscape deal showed that competition in the computer software industry was alive and well.

Mr Condon said that he initially joined the case to protect consumers from any harm that might come from one company gaining a monopoly over access to the Internet. But the Government's case is about Internet competitors, not protecting consumers, according to Condon.

"Innovation should be left to entrepreneurs, not to government bureaucrats or to the courts," Mr Condon said.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET MOVES		
FTSE 100	5576.7	(-5.2)
Nikkei	14723.49	(-1.59)
Dow Jones	8018.49	(+3.25)
S&P Composite	1178.33	(+1.59)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	4.75%	(4.75%)
Long bond	102.7%	(103.4%)
Yield	5.01%	(5.04%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	8.7%	(8.7%)
Life long bill	117.50	(117.48)
STERLING		
New York	1.5833	(1.5827)
London	1.5823	(1.5848)
DM	2.7700	(2.7853)
FF	2.2688	(2.2547)
Sfr	2.2694	(2.2786)
Yen	197.52	(197.31)
S index	98.8	(100.3)
DOLLAR		
London	1.5778	(1.5785)
DM	2.8299	(2.8205)
Sfr	1.5748	(1.5823)
Yen	119.50	(118.72)
S index	106.0	(105.4)
Tokyo close Yen	119.00	
MONTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$10.60	(\$10.45)
GOLD		
London close	\$286.45	(\$282.22)

Recession warning adds to rate cut pressure

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

EVIDENCE of further weakness in manufacturing industry yesterday prompted some City economists to judge that Britain is already in recession.

The plight of manufacturing, coupled with news of a second month of falling retail sales in the high street, strengthened calls for lower interest rates when the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee meets on Wednesday and Thursday.

The British Retail Consortium today reports that retail sales fell by 0.4 per cent in November compared with last year, after a decline of 0.6 per

cent in October. Over the past three months, growth in sales has been virtually nonexistent at 0.1 per cent.

Manufacturing output fell 0.4 per cent in October, according to the Office for National Statistics, a fall of 0.5 per cent from a year ago.

Taking the past three months together, the best guide to the underlying trend, output was down 0.7 per cent against the previous three months and 2.6 per cent lower than the same period last year. This was the sharpest fall since March 1995.

Total industrial production was flat with the decline in manufacturing offset by rises in oil and gas extraction and the output of utilities.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank, said the manufacturing figures, together with recent evidence of weakness in retailing and services, meant that, overall, the British economy would contract in the fourth quarter.

He said: "We suspect that the economy is now in recession in that a weak fourth quarter will be followed by a weak first quarter. Worse is to come."

Mr Saunders said that he expected base rates to continue falling rapidly with a further quarter-point cut announced at the end of the MPC meeting on Thursday and rates falling to 5 per cent late next year and possibly even lower in 2000.

Adding to the sense of gloom were figures from Dun & Bradstreet yesterday showing that UK business failures in the three months to the end of September had jumped by nearly 18 per cent compared with a year ago.

A separate report on company failures from Deloitte & Touche based on the *London Gazette* and the *Edinburgh Gazette* in November reported a total of 134 failures compared with 86 in November a year ago.



George Soros, who gave the euro strong support, saying it would come to rival the dollar

Soros says world is in grip of a bear market

By Janet Bush

GEORGE SOROS, the international financier, said yesterday that although the global economy is probably past the worst of the recent crisis, he is still of the view that the world is in the grip of a bear market.

In London to promote his new book *The Crisis of Global Capitalism*, Mr Soros said: "We are in a deflationary environment which is very different from what we have had, certainly since the 1970s."

He noted that one third of the world was in recession and that there was an oversupply of almost all commodities. However, he admitted that his pessimism may be wrong and that he had not expected the recent recovery in stock markets.

"I did not anticipate the extent of the recovery. I anticipated a halfway recovery," he said.

Mr Soros gave the euro strong support, saying that it

would come to rival the dollar as a reserve currency.

He said: "I think the monetary system that has been established is not totally without flaws but I think the flaws will be corrected because it is realised how important it is to have a stable single currency."

He gave warning that, outside the single currency, the pound could come under speculative attack but he also said that there were great risks for Britain in joining the euro.

Scots power group shares fall as US deal unveiled

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

SCOTTISHPOWER yesterday became the first UK utility to move into the US market with a \$12.5 billion merger with PacifiCorp.

The deal, effectively a takeover, propels ScottishPower into the top ten of world utility companies and ends a year-long search for a US partner.

In the City, however, there were reservations about the deal, both over regulatory concerns as well as the financial health of PacifiCorp. The stock fell about 10 per cent, by 66p to 60p.

The share-for-share arrangement with PacifiCorp, based in Oregon, gives ScottishPower shareholders two thirds of the merged business.

The company will be based in Scotland and will continue to be led by Ian Robinson, ScottishPower's chief executive, and Ian Russell, group finance director, his number two.

Alan Richardson, managing director of ScottishPower's power systems, will be sent to the US to shake up PacifiCorp, while Keith McKinnon, the US company's chief executive and president, becomes deputy chairman.

PacifiCorp is the third big deal in as many years for ScottishPower after the purchase of Manweb, the north-west regional electricity company, and Southern Water. PacifiCorp brings in 1.4 million new customers in six western states including California.

ScottishPower had previously held abortive talks with both Florida Power and Light, and Cinergy. Mr Robinson said the search for a US company had been frustrated by potential deals falling short of shareholder value tests. "It has not been easy to find a business which demonstrates a good return to shareholders," he said.

Analysts fear that the deal, which values PacifiCorp at \$4.7 billion, faces a series of regulatory tests. It has to satisfy state and federal regulators and be approved under the US Public Utility Holding Act.

Mr Robinson said he believed that the hurdles would be overcome: "We are starting this week and it is our expectation that everything will be completed within nine months."

Efficiency plans drawn up by PacifiCorp and revealed to ScottishPower when the two sides began talks three months ago include the sale of non-core businesses, about 1,500 job losses and cost savings of about \$30 million (£18 million).

chase of Manweb, the north-west regional electricity company, and Southern Water. PacifiCorp brings in 1.4 million new customers in six western states including California.

ScottishPower had previously held abortive talks with both Florida Power and Light, and Cinergy. Mr Robinson said the search for a US company had been frustrated by potential deals falling short of shareholder value tests. "It has not been easy to find a business which demonstrates a good return to shareholders," he said.

Analysts fear that the deal, which values PacifiCorp at \$4.7 billion, faces a series of regulatory tests. It has to satisfy state and federal regulators and be approved under the US Public Utility Holding Act.

Mr Robinson said he believed that the hurdles would be overcome: "We are starting this week and it is our expectation that everything will be completed within nine months."

Efficiency plans drawn up by PacifiCorp and revealed to ScottishPower when the two sides began talks three months ago include the sale of non-core businesses, about 1,500 job losses and cost savings of about \$30 million (£18 million).

Barclays gives debt warning

By Richard Miles

BARCLAYS, the bank hit ten days ago by the abrupt departure of Martin Taylor as chief executive, gave warning yesterday that second-half provisions for bad and doubtful debts were likely to be higher than in 1998's first six months.

Ahead of meetings with City analysts, Barclays also disclosed that operating costs were expected to rise this year by 5.5 per cent. This is understood to be related mainly to euro and millennium costs.

The bank, which issued a veiled profits warning when Mr Taylor left, attributed the expected rise in bad debt provisions to lower levels of recoveries in corporate banking.

It also said a large part of its £250 million loss in Russia is to be classed as a dealing loss.

Egg's instant access claims are laid to rest

By Richard Miles, Banking Correspondent

EGG, the direct banking operation of Prudential, has bowed to consumer pressure and dropped the term "instant access" from the marketing literature for its savings account paying 8 per cent interest.

As the Office of Fair Trading confirmed it was investigating Egg's use of the instant access term, an Egg spokesman said it had amended its literature after a complaint from the Advertising Standards Authority.

The ASA took issue with

Egg over a claim that it offers instant access on its main savings account because customers have to wait three days to obtain their money.

Egg has now altered its marketing literature to ensure customers are aware of the delay. The changes are also in anticipation of a new code of practice from the British Bankers' Association in January. ASA said yesterday it would take no further action.

The confrontation with the

ASA is the latest in a series of start-up difficulties at Egg. Earlier it had been accused of misleading customers about access rights because of a clause in the smallprint that said Egg had the right to retain savers' money for up to 60 days.

The bank also had to employ 250 emergency staff to handle customer applications after it drastically underestimated the level of demand, sparking a flood of consumer complaints.

BAe fuels merger rumours

By Adam Jones

BRITISH Aerospace fuelled speculation that it is close to a "breakaway" merger with DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (DASA) when it said discussions about consolidation with unnamed parties were at a "relatively advanced stage".

BAe shares rose from 495p to 51p, even though it said "no definitive agreements have yet been reached". The BAe statement to the Stock Exchange was in response to suggestions that BAe and DASA were close to a deal.

The aircraft makers have been in talks with Aerospaceale to try to forge a tripartite merger, but the French State's involvement in Aerospaceale has been a stumbling block, prompting suggestions that an Anglo-German link may be forged.

We hold that each man is the best judge of his own interest.

At 6.29% (6.5% APR) capped for five years, we judge this to be one of the best interest rate deals around.

John Charcol

This has to be one of the best 5 year capped rates currently on the market. Over the 5 year period you'll never pay more than 6.29% (6.5% APR), but if rates fall below the cap, you can take advantage. There are no compulsory insurances and redemption penalties only apply during the capped period. The details: ■ 5 year capped rate 6.29% (6.5% APR) to 1/2/2004 ■ Available for purchases to 95% of property value, and remortgages to 90% ■ Redemption penalties: 6 months interest until 1/2/2004. Call now for your nearest branch.

JOHN CHARCOL
0800 71 81 91

Talk about a better mortgage.

Based on a £75,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £100,000, repaid over 25 years. 300 gross monthly repayments of £293.13 at 6.29% (6.5% APR). Total amount payable £193,975.56 calculated to include an arrangement fee of £395, £49 John Charcol reservation fee, £205 valuation fee, £126 solicitors fees, deeds administration fee of £55 (payable on redemption) and accrued interest of £196.58. No account has been made for early redemption charges. The APR is 6.52%, and is typical for an interest only loan over 25 years and assumes the lender's Standard Variable Rate will remain at 6.29% (6.5% APR) for the remainder of the loan. After the capped rate has expired the APR may vary. When interest reaches 90% of property value, additional security in the form of a Mortgage Indemnity Premium will be required. Mortgage secured on property. Insurance may be required. Loans subject to credit checks, type and value of property. Limited funds available. John Charcol operates through branches and franchisees (who are appointed representatives) any of which you may be connected to on the above number. This advertisement has been issued and approved by John Charcol Ltd and The John Charcol Partnership Ltd both of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The FSA does not regulate mortgage business or general insurance business. Credit broker. Representations of any of which you may be connected to on the above number. When quotations are available on request. Rates correct at time of going to press. To maintain the quality of our service we may occasionally lose calls to this number for training and monitoring purposes. Head Office: 10-12 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DD. Tel: 0171 611 7000. Ten of up to 1% of the amount borrowed may be charged. When quotations are available on request.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

...and he tried to hammer a stake assaulted by Mr. Rush. OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL.

Dixey reveals drugs progress

PHYTOPHARM, the company developing medicines from plants, is in talks with five multinational drug companies about its osteoarthritis treatment (Paul Durman writes).

Richard Dixey, chief executive, said P54 is an advance on an important class of arthritis drugs known as Cox-2 inhibitors. He said the Phytopharm product is believed to block the production of the Cox-2 enzyme that causes the inflammation that leads to arthritis.

Pfizer is working with Phytopharm on an appetite suppressant that could be used to treat obesity. Dr Dixey said work on the drug is three months ahead of schedule, and is expected to begin phase II clinical trials next year.

Phytopharm, which has tripled in value this year, was reporting a pre-tax loss of £3.6 million (£3 million) for the year to August 31.



Ian Rubin, left, chief operating officer, Richard Dixey and Simon Loach, right, finance director of Phytopharm, which revealed a pre-tax loss of £3.6 million.

AngloGold buys gold assets of Minorco for £330m

By CARL MORTISHED

ANGLOGOLD, the world's biggest gold producer and a 55 per cent subsidiary of Anglo-American, the South African conglomerate, is buying the goldmining assets of Minorco, an Anglo-American affiliate, for \$550 million (£330 million).

The deal coincides with Anglo-American's takeover of the Luxembourg-listed Minorco and Anglo moving its head office to London. The cash injection will cut Minorco's debt sharply and leave the merged Anglo with low gearing.

The Minorco gold assets, which include interests in mines in Colorado and Nevada, as well as shares in Brazilian and Argentine ventures, were put up for sale earlier this year. The mines produce about 800,000 troy ounces a year, but have generated modest returns for Minorco. Hank Slack, Minorco chief executive said: "The true value of these assets has never been reflected in the share price." Bought for \$750 million at the start of the decade, they have suffered production problems, and the Nevada property, Jerritt Canyon, was written down in March. Mr Slack said the book value of the gold assets was \$290 million.

Minorco would not disclose the number or identity of other bidders for the assets, but said that it was a competitive auction process. Mining analysts said that the deal looked expensive, valuing the mines at about 2.3 times their annual gold sales. Bobby Godsell, chief executive of AngloGold, said that the deal was "an important step towards our becoming a globally active gold company". He said that cash costs were about \$197 an ounce at Pikes Peak, Colorado, and \$119 an ounce at Jerritt Canyon. That compares with \$211 at AngloGold's South African mines, which produce 7.5 million ounces per year.

AngloGold listed its shares on the New York Stock Exchange in August. It joined forces in May with Barrick Gold Corp. of Canada, to explore gold properties in Africa.

Oil price slides below \$10 amid fears of quota-busting

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

THE price of a barrel of crude oil fell below \$10 on the London futures market yesterday, the first time since 1986, as dealers fretted about warm weather in the US and continued quota-busting by Opec producers.

The Brent Crude January contract yesterday slumped to \$9.92, before recovering. The price has fallen by almost 60 per cent since the beginning of 1996, spurring large oil companies into mega-mergers aimed at reducing costs while oil-producing countries have seen their incomes slashed.

Yesterday's slide was in part because of balmy weather conditions on the US eastern seaboard, raising fears that high stock levels will not be run down this winter.

The continued fall is ringing

alarm bells among Opec members but there was little sign yesterday that the cartel was ready to take action. The oil price was at the top of the agenda at a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council yesterday, whose members account for more than 40 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves.

Yesterday, GCC members were pointing the finger elsewhere with a spokesman for Abu Dhabi calling on non-Gulf Opec countries to follow the example of GCC and stick to their quotas. Last summer the oil cartel agreed a 2.6 million barrel per day reduction in output but adherence to quotas has been erratic with market evidence yesterday suggesting as little as 65 per cent compliance.

The price slippage yesterday

was ominous as it occurred in the wake of election news in Venezuela where Hugo Chavez, the President-elect, has promised adherence to its quotas.

Venezuela has been labelled the principal offender in quota-busting. However, analysts were dubious about the new president's ability to repay Venezuela's huge public debt while allowing oil revenues to shrink.

The oil-producing countries in the Gulf are suffering a similar squeeze with some GCC members relying on oil for more than 80 per cent of their hard currency earnings. Saudi Arabia was forced to seek a \$5 billion loan last week from Abu Dhabi, thought to be aimed at propping up the weakening Saudi currency.

Rumours are also circulating

that Saudi Arabia has only just enough revenue to pay civil service salaries with no surplus left for investment.

According to Leo Drollas, of the Centre for Global Energy Studies, the Gulf countries are only earning \$7 for each barrel as their oil fetches a discount because of the cost of transport to Europe or America. He said that the Gulf countries would have to act soon. "Things are now extremely serious. There is the possibility of unrest."

At last month's Vienna summit, the oil cartel failed to agree even to roll over their production quotas. Attempts by a ginger group, including Algeria, to push for heavier cuts failed.

Mr Drollas said: "Saudi Arabia was taking a legalistic view

that countries must comply with the existing quotas before they talk about further cuts."

Saudi Arabia has suffered cuts of 6 per cent in volume but instead of prices increasing they have fallen. There is now the dilemma of giving up more market share with the uncertain promise of a higher price. As Mr Drollas puts it: "No one wants to commit suicide first."

He sees little chance of action until February as many Opec countries will be effectively closed for business during the month of Ramadan which begins on December 20.

The low oil price has inflicted heavy pain on oil producers in the West who face asset write-downs particularly in the high-cost areas of the North Sea.

Swedes to get a taste of Conran

LONDON'S restaurant critics may have cooled towards him, but Sir Terence Conran's culinary ambitions remain undimmed. Fresh from the opening of the Alcazar in Paris, Sir Terence is to join forces with Sweden's powerful Wallenberg family to open and operate a restaurant in Stockholm.

Conran Holdings has signed a joint venture agreement with the Grand Hotel, owned by the Wallenberg banking and industrial empire, to turn the hotel's famous Berns restaurant into a 250-seat Quaglino-style brasserie. It will also operate a bar with seating for 150.

Berns, which was opened in 1863, is renowned for its high ceilings and ornate fittings. The dining room, once popular as a cabaret venue, will close in the middle of next year for a £3 million makeover by CD Partnership. Sir Terence's architecture and design practice, "Berns" has a fantastic interior which offers exciting design challenges," he said.

The new-look Berns restaurant is expected to open in late 1999, around the same time as the Bridgemarket restaurant in New York. Sir Terence's first US venture.



Topps Tiles, the ceramic tile retailer whose chief executive is Barry Bester, above, is buying 20 leasehold retail properties from the receivers of TLE City for an undisclosed sum. The company also reported a rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £1.5 million from £1.4 million.

Panel to boost efficiency

THE drive to improve productivity and efficiency in the public sector will be spearheaded by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General (Carl Mortished writes).

Mr Robinson is to chair the new Public Services Productivity Panel, a ten-strong team of business luminaries with close connections to the Government.

The panel, which is reporting to 10 Downing Street, includes two members with links

to British Petroleum: Lord Simon of Highbury, a former chairman of the oil company who is Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, and Byron Grote, BP's chief of staff, who has been appointed vice-chairman of the panel.

Other members are Lord Sainsbury of Turville, a junior science minister; Dame Sheila Masters, a partner of KPMG, the accountants; Clare Spottiswoode, the

former Director-General of Ofgas; John Mayo, GEC's finance director; John Maksin, finance director of Pearson; Andrew Foster, head of The Audit Commission; and John Dowdy of McKinsey, the management consultants.

The creation of the panel was signalled in the Government's pre-Budget Report, which highlighted its concern that Britain trails the US in business competitiveness by 40 per cent.

Deutsche merger faces delay

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

A TOP New York City official demanded yesterday that financial regulators delay the \$10 billion merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust until the German bank has settled multibillion-dollar claims against it made by Holocaust victims.

Alan Hevesi, New York's City Comptroller, who was instrumental in negotiating a \$1.25 billion settlement brokered between Swiss banks and Holocaust survivors or heirs seeking compensation, said: "When federal and state governments review this merger, they should consider how Deutsche Bank is dealing with Holocaust-related claims."

The merger has to get past US Federal Reserve and New York State banking regulators. In the past the administration of Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor, has deferred to the comptroller on such issues.

Mr Hevesi last year organised a network of state and local finance officials whose threat to impose sanctions on Swiss banks helped to persuade them to settle with Holocaust victims. The State Department worked to head off a boycott of the Swiss banks by local officials, calling it counterproductive.

Stagecoach's green light for shake-up

STAGECOACH yesterday confirmed that Brian Cox is to step down as head of South West Trains, its London Waterloo commuter franchise, to become Group Commercial Director. He will be replaced by Brian Eccles, currently South West Trains operations director. Barry Hinkley, an executive director, has taken on responsibility for all UK bus operations under a new structure working with three divisions, rather than five. Stagecoach made the statement after the changes were detailed in *The Times* yesterday.

The restructuring of the bus division has cost the jobs of Neil Renison, head of Stagecoach Scotland and Jim Moffat as head of Fife Scottish. All Scottish buses now come under a new division run from Stockton, northeast England. The changes are the work of Mike Kinski, who was recruited as chief executive to give Brian Souer, founder and chairman, time to hunt for acquisitions. Stagecoach shares fell 44p to 244½p yesterday. The group returns its interim results on Thursday.

Cadbury boost in US

CADBURY SCHWEPPE, the British soft drinks and confectionery group, said yesterday Dr Pepper/Seven Up, its American drinks division, had entered a new distribution agreement with PepsiCo's newly formed bottling group. The agreement extends the availability of Dr Pepper/Seven Up brands in the US, and will boost its status as market leader in non-colas in North America. The terms of the agreement were not disclosed as the Pepsi Bottling Group is expected to launch a flotation early next year.

Green audit service

BODY SHOP has teamed up with accountants KPMG to offer companies a service to audit their green credentials. The service will advise companies on their performance on social and environmental issues to add to the more traditional financial auditing provided by KPMG. Anita Roddick, Body Shop joint chairman, described the deal as "an unconventional partnership", but said it was the natural step for businesses to take. KPMG said the service would reap fees of up to £20 million over the next three years. Commentary, page 29

Serco talks break off

SERCO GROUP, the UK outsourcing and task management company, and Tas Groep, of The Netherlands, have broken off talks aimed at establishing joint ventures in Britain and Holland. Tas said both companies would instead focus on their core activities, partly because of the hesitant progress of the facilities management market in The Netherlands. Tas Groep said it will continue to operate its IT services activities in the UK independently, while Serco will continue its facilities management activities in The Netherlands.

Countryside contract

COUNTRYSIDE Properties, the housebuilder, yesterday announced that its Countryside in Partnership subsidiary had won a £13 million contract to carry out the Millennium Plus social housing project on the Nightingale Estate in the London Borough of Hackney. The project, in collaboration with the Samuel Taylor Housing Trust, involves the provision of 208 homes for rent and shared ownership over the next four years. Last Thursday, Countryside was granted planning permission for its Millennium Village venture in Greenwich.

Sema Olympic contract

SEMA GROUP, the Anglo-French IT company, yesterday won a seven-year contract to manage IT systems for the Olympic Games, in a deal thought to be worth £220m (£130 million). Under the deal Sema will co-ordinate and supervise IT suppliers, and develop and run several key IT systems. Sema's contract — said to be the largest ever in the field of sports-related IT — will cover the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games, the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, the 2006 Olympic Winter Games and the 2008 Olympic Games.

Compel acquisition

COMPEL, the IT services group, yesterday announced the proposed acquisition of InfoProducts, the loss-making computer services company. Compel will pay just £1, but will assume £10 million of debt owned by InfoProducts. InfoProducts made losses in 1997 and 1998, which Compel said were "a result of management failures". Compel plans to reduce costs with the initial aim of achieving a break-even position before full integration into the company and said it was placing 997,500 new ordinary shares to raise £5 million.

Acal moves ahead

ACAL GROUP, a distributor of electronic and IT products, lifted pre-tax profits 29 per cent to £7.2 million in the six months to September 30. Turnover was £78.2 million (£74.6 million) and earnings per share were 22.3p (17.9p). The interim dividend is 4.10p (3.60p). The company said the success of the first half was the turnaround in its restructured PC parts business, which exceeded its targets for the period. Acal said the economic climate made trading in the UK tough but Europe provided a more positive climate.

Del Monte £10m deal

DEL MONTE ROYAL FOODS, Britain's leading fruit juice producer, has consolidated its position with the £10.5 million acquisition of the Just Juice subsidiary of Tomkins, the engineering and foods group. The deal, for £8.5 million in cash and £2 million of shares, will see Just Juice plus other brands, such as De L'Or and One-Cal, move from Tomkins's factory at Ledbury, Herefordshire, to Del Monte's King's Lynn plant. Del Monte currently has 13 per cent of the UK fruit juice market and 20 per cent of branded canned-fruit business.

RAMSGATE NEW PORT, EAST KENT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The former Port of Ramsgate, previously operated by Sally UK, has been acquired by Thanet District Council with effect from Saturday 21 November 1998. The port is now operating under the holding title of 'Ramsgate New Port'.

Thanet Council is interested in seeking expressions of interest from companies of substance. Possible options include:

1. Outsourcing of port management by contract.
2. Expansion of the Port to include additional freight and passenger services.
3. Commercial and leisure development at and around the Port.
4. Joint venture, franchising or other innovative arrangements.

Since taking over Ramsgate New Port, the Council has commenced a new freight service in conjunction with TransEuropa Shipping Lines, HR services Ltd, Oostende Cargo Handling Services and the Port of Oostende between Ramsgate and Oostende.

Development initiatives in and around Ramsgate include plans to invest over £350 million in infrastructure, the business environment and tourism product.

Please address your response by Friday 18 December 1998 to:

David Ralls, Chief Executive
Thanet District Council
Cecil Street
Margate, Kent CT19 1XZ
Tel: 01843-225511 Fax: 01843-298874
E-mail: edu.thanet@btinternet.com



Ritblat expresses confidence as British Land secures City option

By CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH LAND has secured an option over 155 Bishoptate, an office block that forms part of the Broadgate complex in the City of London.

The 400,000 sq ft building is owned by a consortium of investors led by Pricco, the real estate arm of Prudential Insurance of America. Talks between the parties reached a deadlock over price.

However British Land still hopes to strike a deal that would extend its control over acres of prime real estate in the City.

Shares in the property group slipped 11p to 475p yesterday, in spite of encouraging comments from John Ritblat,

the chairman, and news that British Land's rental income was still growing in a lacklustre property market.

Net rents for the half year to September increased from £155 million to £163 million. However, British Land's pre-tax profit was £1.5 million lower at £50.1 million, mainly because of reduced profits from trading.

The company earned just £2 million from selling assets in the half year compared with almost £10 million in the first half last year.

Mr Ritblat said that his long-term view was positive, particularly in the City of London, where he said the group was continuing to take advan-

tage of investment opportunities.

British Land's exposure to the City office market has kept its share price under pressure over the past six months. However, the company is determined to increase its investment, having spent more than £200 million during the period, buying a long lease on 175 Bishoptate and acquired five ground rents on the same street from the freeholder, Railtrack.

Mr Ritblat said there had been rental growth in its properties with a sensible balance between supply and demand.

He remains optimistic about the retail sector despite

the gloomy surveys emerging from the high street.

"It is hard to imagine that shoppers will not succumb to the blandishments of wily retailers once new year resolutions have gone the way of all flesh."

In October, British Land secured planning permission to redevelop Plantations House, the 1.2 hectare site in the centre of the City. Demolition has started but buildings work will not commence until a tenant is found.

British Land is paying an interim dividend of 3.25p per share, up 52 per cent, out of earnings of 8.1p (8.4p).

Tempus, page 30

Bank	Days	Bank	Sells
Australia	2.78	2.88	
Autumn	20.54	16.89	
Belgium	60.46	55.83	
Canada	2.67	2.489	
Central Op & S	0.988	0.783	
Denmark	11.15	10.26	
Egypt	5.82	8.21	
Finland	8.03	8.24	
France	8.79	9.01	
Germany	2.941	2.899	
Greece	13.63	12.43	
Hong Kong	13.83	10.6	
Indonesia	1.624	1.194	
Israel	1.1718	1.0626	
Italy	7.28	6.80	
Japan	22.57	18.58	
Malaysia	0.880	0.691	
Netherlands	3.322	3.027	
New Zealand	3.30	3.08	
Norway	12.99	12.06	
Portugal	207.15	278.12	
Spain	10.42	9.48	
Sweden	247.99	223.20	
Switzerland	14.29	13.18	
Taiwan	2.430	2.212	
Thailand	619.038	484.602	
USA	1.709	1.618	

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Columns relate to the value of the banknote. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Davies the global regulator?



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

If headhunters were asked to find a regulator for the world's financial markets, they might find themselves with the shortest of shortlists. God would be the most obvious contender for this high on impossible role.

But it seems that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is wedded to the idea of trying to impose some international policing on the money men. The idea came to him when the mayhem in the markets was at its worst, with fallout from the Long Term Capital Management debacle raising questions about the stability of the world financial system.

As finance ministers gathered to share their problems and fears, the idea found echoes from America and from Germany. Now the markets have calmed down and the idea might have been left to make a regular appearance in the debate whenever two or three finance ministers gather together. Mr Brown, however, apparently wants action to result from the talking.

He is right not to trust the current relative calm in the markets. Whether a regulator can stop another LTCM or losses in Russian bond markets is another matter. But he is determined to try, and hence it seems he is already pondering where he might find the mastermind for his plan.

The rumour is that his antenna has tuned into Canary Wharf, where Howard Davies has been

assembling Britain's super-regulator. The Financial Services Authority remains at the virtual stage in many ways, with the Bill that turns it into reality not now due to hit the statute book until 2000. But Mr Davies has done the creative thinking necessary to establish the organisation. There are important technicalities to be ironed out, hence the lengthy legislative timetable, but the FSA framework is in place.

No doubt Mr Davies will reassure the Commons Treasury Select Committee of this today when he appears for a grilling. It is doubtful that any member of the committee would ask him whether he might be interested in taking on the challenge of constructing a global FSA. However, the likelihood is that he would feature on Gordon Brown's role of potential contenders.

And although it would not be everyone's idea of the dream job, it might appeal to Mr Davies. The bicycling football fan has done much at the FSA to confound critics who said that his skills were purely front-of-house, a reputation that attached itself to him in his days at the CBI. This was never likely to be a fair assessment of someone who had,

like Archie Norman of Asda and Mr Davies's CBI successor, Adair Turner, qualified as a McKinsey man.

Since his spell at the CBI, Mr Davies has done a turn as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. That constitutes a CV that few applicants for the role of world financial regulator could emulate. If the job is to be done — and that may be questionable — he could be the man to do it.

Mandelson fails to deliver

Since not even Tarzan was brave enough to swing into action and privatise the Post Office, we should not be too surprised that Peter Mandelson has ducked the challenge.

Michael Heseltine's privatising instincts were curtailed by fears of the votes that would be lost at the prospect of closing rural post offices. As it turned out,

he should not have worried: a few discontented country voters would not have salvaged the Conservatives from election defeat and at least a privatised Post Office would have been some consolation.

The very urban Peter Mandelson would probably have been prepared to inconvenience a few country dwellers but he too has been dissuaded from turning over the Post Office to the private sector, at least for the time being. Yesterday, he was still refusing to rule out an eventual partial sale while also insisting that his statement had removed the cloud of uncertainty that has been hanging over the organisation. Spin doctors do not see life as others see it.

But while he did not choose to dwell on it, the factor that probably weighed heaviest in the Secretary of State's decision not to privatise was the reaction of the trade unions. Britain's record of improving labour relations owes

little to the posties. The organisation claims a shameful place at the top of the table for days lost through industrial action. Despite the new technology sweeping the country, the Royal Mail is still capable of demonstrating the way in which large slices of the community still depend heavily on the postal services.

At least now we will see those services subject to competition. That may prompt the Post Office to improve its act and, if it does not, then the business will ebb away. When Mr Mandelson, or his successor, eventually decides that the time is right to privatise, he could be faced with a moribund company.

Prosperity, not mere survival, depends on the Post Office having the capital to go into the world and fight for business. Privatisation is the essential precursor to that. A fine example was in evidence yesterday as Scottish Power effectively took over the American PacifiCorp. The deal

lacked any element of surprise but is still remarkable. A few years ago it would have taken a flight of imagination to envisage the West Coast of the US being provided by power by a company headquartered in Glasgow. Ian Robinson was allowed to have that imagination.

Not the right environment

It is noble in the extreme of Anita Roddick to volunteer the services of Body Shop to help other companies to audit their green credentials. To see this vociferous critic of the City going into partnership with KPMG will cause some wry amusement but Ms Roddick will rise above the critics. Her motives are of the highest — and if the venture should earn some cash, shareholders will surely not carp.

For the sad truth is that Body Shop's environmental credentials have latterly done little for its profits. This may be the flaw that KPMG reaches in trying to sign up clients for the new social and environmental audit.

The most recent annual report boasted an interesting green leaf

on the cover and introduced readers to the company's best selling new range, based on hemp.

The figures in the report are rather less cheery. Had it not been for an extraordinary charge relating to the French franchisees, profits in the last financial year would have been barely changed on the previous twelve months. This year, even allowing for the effects of hemp, they will be look even less jolly.

Undaunted, Ms Roddick maintains that 'in five years time, it will be seen as second-rate business practice not to be publishing information on social and environmental performance'. And KPMG is clear about just what first-rate business practice will mean to the firm: fees of up to £20 million over the next three years.

One jump ahead

IN ITS search for a way out of the recession into which it has plunged, the UK textiles industry could do worse than follow the lead of Henry Schuldenfrei. The chairman and chief executive of Worthington Group, which earlier this year acquired the M&S supplier Jerome, attributes much of his company's success in withstanding the worst ravages of the downturn to strong demand for its ropes for bungee jumping. This is one company that will bounce back quickly from recession.

GKN in American deal to boost car parts role

By Adam Jones

GKN is buying Interlake, a debt-ridden US engineer, for \$553 million (£335 million). The acquisition is designed to strengthen GKN's position in automotive and aerospace components and comes despite bearish predictions for car sales next year.

GKN yesterday admitted that it expects the market for its car parts to worsen. However, shares in the UK engineering group rose 1½p to 675p.

C.K. Chow, chief executive of GKN, wants 20 per cent of group sales to come from the US by the end of 1999. The Interlake deal will take the

proportion to about 16 per cent.

Interlake is struggling under debts of £170 million. The great majority of the loans are accruing interest at 12 per cent or more. In the nine months to September 27, Interlake made pre-interest operating profits of £25.8 million on sales of £240.1 million.

The debt, plus £119 million of further liabilities, meant that shareholders' funds had withered to an £88.5 million deficit.

Interlake owns 80 per cent of Hoeganaes, the leading US producer of powder metal, which is used to make car

parts more cheaply than traditional forging methods. Hoeganaes is a supplier to the GKN Sinter Metals subsidiary.

The two will be managed separately and GKN played down suggestions that Hoeganaes's relationship with other customers will suffer because of GKN's ownership. The other investor in Hoeganaes, a Swedish company called Högana, is expected to remain involved.

Interlake also owns Chemtronic, which makes and repairs engine parts for aircraft. In a trading statement accompanying the purchase announcement, GKN said that

its businesses are trading "satisfactorily". It added: "Whilst the market environment for automotive operations is likely to be less favourable, these businesses are strongly positioned to compete in a challenging environment."

Mr Chow said that this should not be seen as a profit warning. Although reluctant to forecast too specifically, he indicated that GKN expects the US and European market to decline by up to 4 per cent next year. Mr Chow said GKN's automotive market share is rising because of contract wins, strengthening its position in any industry downturn.

EU to decide on London Elec deal

THE European Commission is to have the final say on whether Electricité de France (EdF) is allowed to buy London Electricity for almost £2 billion (Adam Jones writes).

It will be the first UK electricity supply deal to have its fate decided on competition issues by Brussels.

EdF's purchase of London is controversial because the French state-owned company already supplies 57 per cent of UK electricity through a cross-channel interconnector.

Offer, the UK electricity regulator, said yesterday that the EU will have exclusive jurisdiction. This will not stop Offer from investigating the deal before advising the Government on issues to raise with Brussels. Offer is inviting comments before December 14.

Profits leap by 55% at Jarvis

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

INDUSTRIAL action by members of the RMT trade union failed to stop Jarvis, the construction and rail infrastructure management group, from posting a 55 per cent jump in pre-tax profits.

Turnover for the six months to September 30 was up 118 per cent to £279 million and the company said it had future orders worth £1.2 billion.

Delays to work in progress caused by industrial action did not affect profits but there was a knock-on effect on Jarvis's cashflow. The amount of money tied up in working capital increased as projects hit by the action were pushed from the first to the second half.

The assimilation of Stream-

line, a road maintenance company Jarvis bought for £90 million in May, also worsened the look of the cashflow statement, but Jarvis said this was only because of the seasonality of Streamline's operation.

Jarvis made taxable profits of £19.7 million against £12.7 million in the same period last year. Operating profits before £3 million of redundancy costs and £2.5 million of goodwill write-offs were up by 124 per cent to £29.3 million.

Earnings per share, calculated before the goodwill write-off, were 13.3p up from 10.2p. The dividend was lifted 40 per cent to 3.5p from 2.5p.

Temps page 30

Car dealer admits to bid talks

EVANS HALSHAW got caught up by the takeover fever sweeping the forecourt yesterday as the nationwide car dealer admitted that it is in talks with an unnamed suitor (Fraser Nelson writes).

Shares in the company jumped 30 per cent to 211½p as City speculators immediately named rival groups Pen- dragon and Sanderson Bramall as potential bidders.

Del Barrett, analyst with Peel Hunt, said a bid is likely to come at a premium to the company's net asset value of 226p a share, possibly as much as 250p a share, valuing the company at £80.5 million.

Evans Halshaw runs 70 dealerships across the country, and sells a broad mix of cars. Three months ago, it reported declining car sales.

654 DESTINATIONS.
108 COUNTRIES.
(AND YOU THINK YOU
TRAVEL A LOT)

Lufthansa

UNITED AIRLINES

QANTAS

THAI

AIR CANADA

VARIO

STAR ALLIANCE

The airline network for Earth.

the children's father, was too upset to talk after the hearing. and shook the fence every time they tried to hammer a stake. assaulted by Mr Rush.

OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL.

MICHAEL CLARK

[illegible]

Blundersbank's last hurrah marked out by bad timing

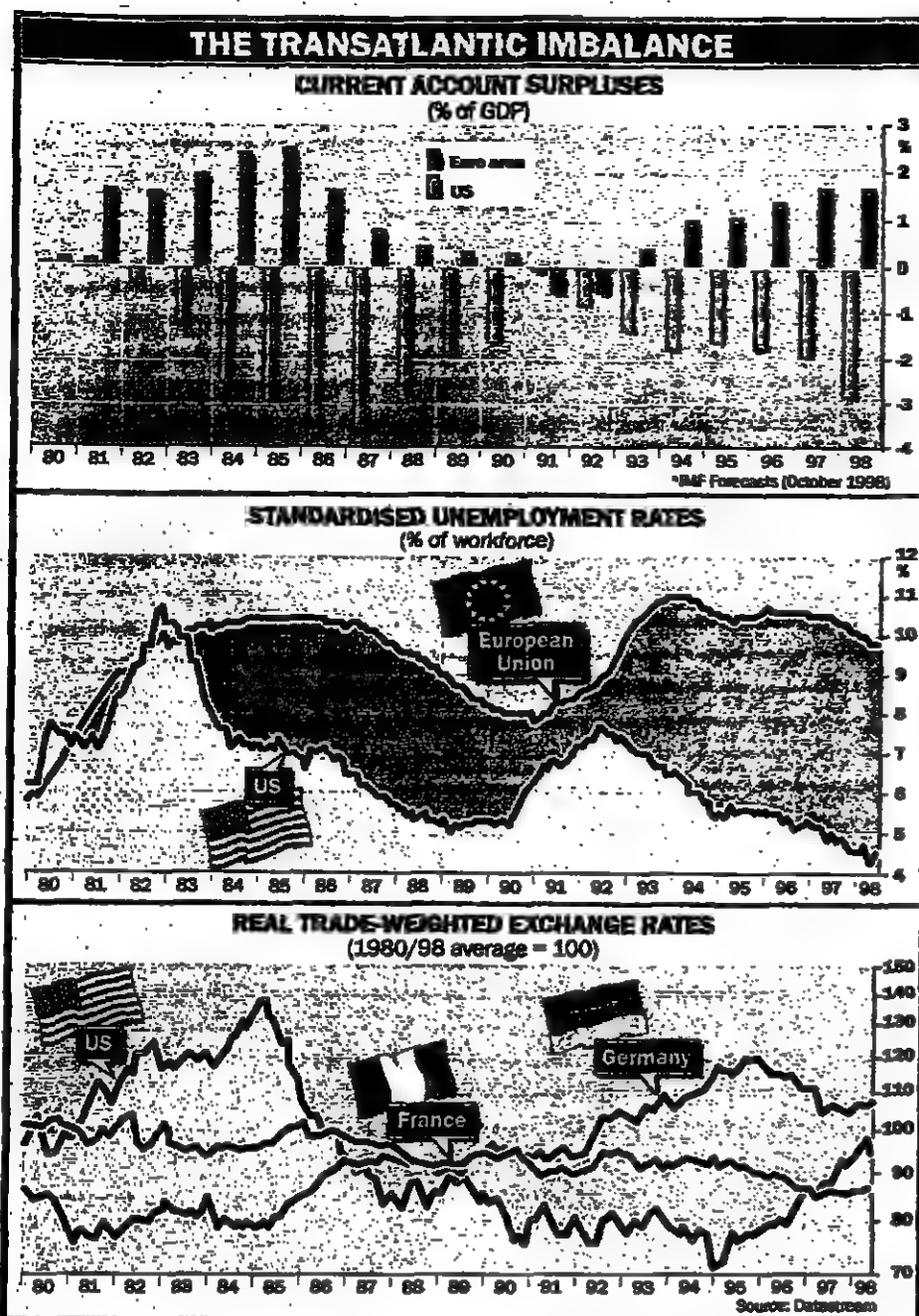
German-led rate cuts sent wrong message two weeks before handover to the ECB

To complain about last week's reduction in European interest rates, led for the last time in history by the German Bundesbank, may seem churlish, particularly after arguing in this column last week that the new European Central Bank must demonstrate its willingness to act aggressively to sustain European economic growth. Nevertheless, last Thursday's move may turn out to be the last serious blunder by an institution whose recent erratic judgment has simply earned it the nickname of the "Blundersbank".

My objection is not, of course, against the principle of a rate cut. It has long been clear that domestic demand in Europe, and especially in Germany, is unacceptably weak. It was even clearer that under a rational monetary policy the European single currency would begin its existence with interest rates rather lower than the 3.3 per cent prevailing in Germany until last Thursday and very much lower than the expectations built into the financial markets. Until very recently, a surprising number of political analysts in the City and on Wall Street were expecting the ECB to launch its campaign for political credibility in Germany and France by actually increasing rates.

The Bundesbank's potential blunder lay not in the decision to cut interest rates, but in its timing and the message that it seemed to convey about monetary policy in the crucial first few months of economic and monetary union. If the Bundesbank had begun to act a few months ago, at the same time as the US Federal Reserve Board and the Bank of England, a rate cut such as last Thursday's would have been an unalloyed blessing. The problem with last week's move was that it came too late to demonstrate the Bundesbank's commitment to a proactive policy against deflationary pressures, yet it came too early to suggest such an activist policy from the ECB.

By moving just two weeks before the formal handover of power to the ECB, the Bundesbank pre-empted a decision that would otherwise have been taken at the new institution's first policymaking meeting. As such it could have had far greater symbolic impact than last week's move, creating a presumption that the new central bank would act more aggressively than the Bundesbank to maintain demand. In the



event, the Bundesbank has sent exactly the opposite signal. By jumping the gun it has signalled that interest rates are now at the "right" level and that they will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future, as Wim Duisenberg, the ECB president, confirmed yesterday in an interview in the *Financial Times*. If European interest rates had to be cut again early in the new year — perhaps in response to another collapse in financial markets or a dangerous hardening of the euro — the ECB would effectively have to challenge the last will and testament of the Bundesbank.

Mr Duisenberg will also have to deal with an internal power struggle that could have been settled once and for all if the Bundesbank had left it to the ECB to cut rates later this month. As was apparent from Italy's refusal to participate fully in last week's rate cuts, Antonio Fazio, the Governor of the Bank of Italy, was opposed to an easing of monetary policy which he saw as unnecessary and symbolically dictated by the Germans and French. According to Richard Medley, the hedge fund consultant who was almost alone in predicting last week's move, one of the Bundesbank's main objectives in jumping the gun was its desire to avert a split vote over the ECB's first monetary policy decision. This is a possibility that Mr Duisenberg, whose leadership is already under pressure from France, apparently views with horror. This is one reason why he is so determined to ensure that the ECB council's minutes and voting records are never published or disclosed. But by allowing a confrontation with Signor Fazio to be avoided at the outset, the Bundesbank has merely ensured that Mr Duisenberg will again be intimidated by a lack of unanimity when pressures develop for the ECB to ease again.

Thus, instead of signalling a new period of monetary activism in Europe, last week's move by the Bundesbank may actually have ensured that monetary paralysis continues to prevail. If so, then trouble could lie ahead, not only for Europe but for the world economy as a whole. Europe will enter 1999 in a condition of profound economic imbalance. One way or another, there will have to be large reductions in its huge trade surplus, since this is a counterpart of the unsustainable trade deficit in the US (see charts). The trade surplus could, in principle, be adjusted in one of two ways. Either there will have to be much faster economic growth and lower unemployment in Europe. Or there will be a further hardening of the euro, which is already dangerously overvalued, and is turning Germany into the rustbelt of Europe. Which of these possibilities comes to pass will depend almost entirely on the willingness of the ECB to ease interest rates aggressively with the deliberate intention of maintaining strong economic growth and a competitive exchange rate.

Until last week it was possible for investors, businessmen and policymakers around the world to believe that Europe had recognised the need for a substantial easing of monetary policy, but had deferred implementing a cut in interest rates until the ECB took over responsibility for monetary policy. This allowed an opportunity for some of the peripheral countries, such as Italy and the Republic of Ireland, to bring their interest rates down to German levels.

It now appears that European central bankers were not simply waiting for the

handover to the ECB, but had decided that 3 per cent was the "right" interest rate that should apply in Europe for "the foreseeable future". What made last week's events rather alarming was the implication that European central bankers were conducting such a debate at all. The fact is that there is no such thing as a "right" interest rate for Europe applicable for "the foreseeable future". Whether 3 per cent, 2 per cent or zero turns out to be right for Europe will depend entirely on events in the months ahead. And at a time as fraught with uncertainty as the present, complete flexibility is needed from the central banks. No one can say in advance what rate might be low enough to guarantee strong economic growth. I would emphasise the word "guarantee" because a guarantee of economic growth is exactly what central bankers outside Europe have been trying to offer their business communities and financial investors in order to offset the dangers of a global deflation.

Over the course of this year every leading central bank and finance ministry outside Europe has effectively committed itself to an active policy of managing demand to maintain economic growth. Alan Greenspan at the Fed, in particular, has made crystal clear that it would go on cutting interest rates as rapidly and as deeply as might be required to stabilise the US economy and financial markets. The Bank of England has sent the same message, now almost certain to be reinforced by another rate cut on Thursday, perhaps even of half a percentage point. The ECB, by contrast, still seems determined to remain the pre-Keynesian odd man out. Mr Duisenberg and other officials continue to repeat the Bundesbank mantra that a central bank must not be a "cyclical institution" and that monetary policy must be guided by a "steady hand". Above all, central bankers must avoid "exaggerated activism" (a phrase coined specifically by the Bundesbank to express European disdain for the policies of the Bank of England and the Fed).

Can economic growth and business confidence be maintained in Europe without the sort of monetary activism and guarantees of positive demand management provided by central banks in the rest of the world? Perhaps they can. But given all the other uncertainties in the world economy today, investors, businessmen and even ordinary consumers in the US, Britain and Japan have come to rely on open-ended commitments to expansionary monetary policy from their central bankers as the only reliable assurances against recession — or, in Japan's case, complete economic collapse. It is hard to see why Europeans will be able to settle for anything less.

Far from a red letter day for the Trade Secretary

Christine Buckley says Government has failed to deliver in its new plans for the Post Office

he has set out. Mr Mandelson has opted for a messy middle ground. The Post Office faces regulation, an erosion of its monopoly and does not have the firepower of commercial freedom that a sale could have delivered. It will still be under the Government's control for making investments and for raising extra cash if its spending plans are ambitious.

The model which the Department of Trade and Industry set out yesterday is only a modest improvement for a Post Office that has been under the cloud of review for the past seven years.

Yesterday's plans stop short of making the Post Office an independent publicly owned corporation — the model favoured by the CWU, and, while the union will welcome the reprieve, it will need to steel itself for the next round in the long-running saga of it and when the organisation is slated up and sold.

It remains to be seen how bold the Post Office is allowed to be under its new and yet to be clarified status. The White Paper will reveal more but it may well turn out to deliver the timid fudge that the Energy Review offered. Mr Mandelson may be adept at digging the Government out of immediate holes but has not yet demonstrated clear leadership in policy.

Why, therefore, shy away from the Post Office? By not selling a part of the Post Office and by giving it the diluted commercial freedom

of the threat to wave at the unions at a later date, presumably after the next election. The climbdown is also glaringly out of kilter with other government action. The Government has made it clear it wants to sell half of the National Air Traffic Control System and is looking at prospects for the Royal Mint. It even wants to sell a big part of the London Underground. The benefits of all these pale into insignificance compared with the Post Office. London's Underground is in such a poor state that potential private partners will need huge incentives to be tempted to dip their toes in the water. The sale of half of the National Air Traffic Control Systems is similarly fraught with problems over difficulties at its planned flagship centre.

Ever since Derek Hodgson, general secretary of the CWU, stirred the Labour conference to a standing ovation with his fierce defence of complete public ownership of the Post Office and rumblings grew through the Labour backbenches, a share sale has slipped down the agenda. While ministers were privately signalling that a sale was the likely outcome of the prolonged review of the Post Office only a few months ago, they began to stop. The reality of controversy cooled their ardour for hurrying the Post Office into a more modern commercial age where it could compete with international rivals. The CWU, probably Britain's last powerful union, had threatened a massive campaign which would strike the Government where it is weakest — in the soon-to-be devolved areas. It would have seized on employee and public objections in Scotland and Wales, giving nationalist opposition parties increased ammunition.

Mr Mandelson's withdrawal from a sale in favour of an extension of commercial freedom which leaves some Post Office executives privately complaining that too little has been done, too late. He says legislative time — necessary for a share sale — would not allow speedy action to improve commercial freedom. But that does not prohibit setting a date in the future — a move which would increase certainty although deprive Mr Mandelson



Mail gets through but there's cold comfort for the Post Office

Family affair

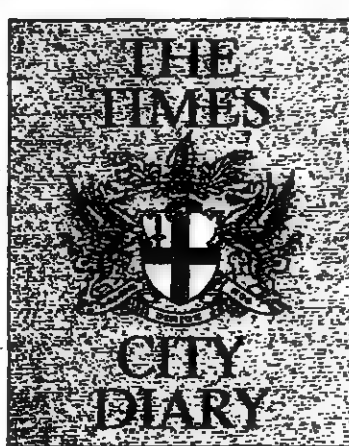
AN OLD friend re-emerges in Paris. Asher Edelman, for it is he, was last heard of on these shores when he attempted to take over Storehouse, and he also once had a pop at Lorrho. He is now trying the same trick at the Tattinger champagne family's hotels, perfume and crystal holding company La Société du Louvre.

Edelman, 58, American but still based in Geneva, has more than 11 per cent of the shares but just 3.9 per cent of the votes, this being France.

He has planned a two-pronged assault, complaining to the Paris Bourse regulator about the voting structure. Edelman yesterday went to a Paris commercial tribunal about how the firm is run, claiming there are too many people called Tattinger there, for example, and about their refusal to give him a seat on the board. Given that the family have control, Edelman would seem to be tilting at windmills. But his record elsewhere shows an ability to turn a profit out of the most unpromising situations.

DID Kim Howells, the Consumer Affairs Minister and MP for Pontypriid, go briefly off-message at yesterday's conference on house purchase? "If I was buying an expensive car I would want to know all the information about it," he said. "And for journalists who live in Islington, there are cars that are bought and sold which cost more than houses in my constituency. Sneers about affluent Islington dwellers? Surely not from new Labour."

Cooked books SOME people are just not cut out for a career of dishonesty. Mark Carnieus Horgan has just been thrown out of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales. Horgan first tried to obtain credit from three banks, citing an accountant whose employment he had left six years previously. The banks checked. He used his former employer's name to try to find work elsewhere. The new employers checked. His final brilliant scheme was last year. He went to an industrial tribunal and claimed unfair dismissal and sex discrimination; again, Horgan said he had been employed by the same firm of accountants since 1990. The tribunal took a look at his documents. His P60 clearly dated from 1990 and had an out-of-date name for his alleged employer, the year 1996 had been "manually inserted". Horgan denied everything to the tribunal, again claiming to be employed. Oddly enough, given his record, once again they checked.



Snooping

JUST published is a 60-page Government report from the Intelligence and Security Committee. This is the parliamentary body charged with keeping track of the activities of all our would-be James Bonds and George Smiths.

There is plenty of text about our spooks. But there are also 15 pages of spreadsheets detailing the intelligence services' finances. Every single entry, every figure, however anodyne, has been replaced by a row of asterisks.

Presumably somewhere in Whitehall there is a complete copy. And one day we may be trusted to know how much MIS spends on office furniture.

TO LEEDS Crown Court, where another company controlled by Stephen Hinchliffe, the former *Facia* magazine now banned from being a director for seven years, has been put to sleep. *Feelgood Leisure* was only formed in January to buy the assets of a collapsed mail order company called *Freemove Sports*.

I ask the administrators for a directors' state of affairs, which will show how much *Feelgood* owes. "Not until we have checked it," came the reply. How long will that take? "Anything up to two months."

So it takes two months to unravel the finances of a company that has only been in existence for eleven? Stephen, you're a marvel.

Dressing down

THIS is Tim McKean of Fuji Bank in a stunt with a couple of underdressed young women during his lunch hour yesterday. Hi, Tim. The models were at the Broadgate ice rink, although I am told skating was not their métier. Was it entirely necessary, I ask Cavenagh, the Moorgate shirt retailer behind the whole thing? The poor girls could easily have caught their deaths. "It's a shirt company," Cavenagh's people tell me callously. "What else can you do?"

MARTIN WALLER



Tim McKean's shirt stunt caught companions out of their meter

big
on little things...

...like attention to detail.

Rowe & Maw

LAWYERS FOR BUSINESS
20 Black Friars Lane, London EC4V6HD
Telephone: 0171 248 4282

the children's father, was too upset to talk after the hearing, and shook the fence over a stake assembled by Mr Rusli.

OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL.



Denise van Outen was rarely out of the headlines this year

Sponsorship that fosters the right image

Today as Scottish & Newcastle reveals its half-year results, the success of Foster's in establishing itself as Britain's second-largest beer brand will come sharply into focus.

Scottish Courage, S&N's subsidiary, brews the Australian beer under licence from its owners and the so-called amber nectar has been gradually catching Carling Black Label, the number one choice among the lager-drinking masses. This year Scottish Courage will sell £1 billion worth of Foster's lager — the equivalent of two million pints each day.

The folk at Scottish Courage are feeling rather pleased with themselves, because they believe they have won an important battle with Bass, which brews Carling, thanks to a decision to plough more than £10 million a year into a massive sponsorship of Formula One motor racing. Until two years ago, Foster's sponsorship was pretty disparate. It had cricket — the most public face of which was the Foster's Oval, the home of Surrey County Cricket Club — it had rugby (both codes) and a giant neon sign at Piccadilly Circus.

However, the deal struck with Bernie Ecclestone made Foster's one of the sport's lead sponsors. It gave

Foster's trackside signage at 11 of the 17 grands prix — essentially all of the European races, apart from France where the rules on alcohol advertising are exceptionally strict, as well as Australia and some of the South American races.

Foster's spreads the cost by asking its distributors to contribute. Scottish Courage, being the biggest, pays the most, and this season it started thinking of ways to make this money work. At the beginning of this year the "recognition rating" for Foster's and Formula One was just 15 per cent — that is, of every 100 beer drinkers asked what sport they associated with Foster's, 15 per cent mentioned motor racing as opposed to cricket, rugby or "dunno".

Jerry Goldberg, the head of lager marketing at Scottish Courage, decided this was not good enough. He considered what were the main interests of sport-obsessed beer drinkers and came up with Kelly Brock, the model, and Denise van Outen, the television presenter. They were made "official brand spokespersons".

In this role, the comely Ms Brock makes personal appearances wearing a rather snug set of Foster's-branded motor racing overalls and the shapely Ms Van Outen was

MARKET LEADER



JASON NISSE

made "guest editor" of a Foster's-sponsored edition of *GO*, the men's magazine, which appeared ahead of the British Grand Prix.

The effect of this promotion and marketing has been to increase the awareness of Foster's and Formula One. The latest tracking research from Millward Brown, the independent consultants, revealed that the awareness rating is now up to 29 per cent. This is higher than the rating that Carlsberg achieves through football — 25 per cent, despite Carlsberg being a sponsor of both Liverpool Football Club and the Football Association — but lags

the 51 per cent that Carling achieves through football. However, it is estimated that Carling puts something like £12 million a year into its backing of the Premiership and supporting that sponsorship, which is more than twice the amount that Scottish Courage had to pay this year for its share of the Formula One deal.

Mr Goldberg's objective through all of this was to take the Foster's sponsorship "off the back page and on to the front page". Its timing could not have been better in signing up Ms Van Outen, as she has had an exceptional year for attracting publicity.

Foster's has three more years of its current Formula One sponsorship to run, though whether Ms Van Outen will still be commanding the headlines by the end of the sponsorship remains to be seen. However, Scottish Courage has spotted a winning formula — as it were — and, come the next motor racing season, do not be surprised if Jerry Goldberg has found another breaking celebrity to push forward this aggressive beer brand.

It is a fair bet that a quarter of the people watching England's victory over South Africa at Twickenham on Saturday did not pay for their

tickets themselves. Rugby union is one of the biggest sports for corporate entertaining. But how does it rate against other sports if you want to schmooze potential clients?

Quite well is the answer. In a survey of 251 corporate entertainers, the Gardner Merchant, the catering group, found that golf was the most successful way of entertaining clients, with 78 per cent or respondents having hosted a golf day and 28 per cent of them thinking it was the most successful thing they did. Though 48 per cent of them had hosted an event at a football match, only 8 per cent of them thought it was most successful, while 9 per cent said taking clients to a Five Nations rugby match was "most successful" despite only 36 per cent of them hosting an event at one of those internationals.

The least popular turned out to be one-day cricket internationals — 26 per cent of respondents said they had hosted them, with only 1 per cent saying they were the most successful thing they had done. With the cricket and rugby world cups taking place in Britain next year the findings should give Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth and the England & Wales Cricket Board plenty of food for thought.

Hillsdown chicken unit sold for £100m

By FRASER NELSON

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS sold its Ross Breeders chicken division for £100 million yesterday and then promptly called a halt to its programme of further disposals.

The company, which has already demerged its Fairview and Terranova subsidiaries, said that after yesterday's sale it now intends to keep its remaining poultry farms as well as its core furniture business.

Hillsdown said the credit crunch has left prospective bidders unable to raise enough money. It has postponed plans for a multi-million share buyback until the situation improves.

Michael Teacher, chief executive, admitted that he had agreed terms to sell the furniture division but the bidder withdrew after losing financial support.

"It is a very tough market out there, and we do not need to sell now," said Mr Teacher. "Our main aim was not necessarily to split up the business; the aim was to return value to shareholders. The credit cycle

normally lasts for a couple of years, so we should have the disposals under way by then."

Hillsdown had hoped to sell all its poultry businesses in one go, but will now keep hold of its smaller chicken farming division which supplies supermarkets.

Mr Teacher said all poultry farms have hit hard times — with chickens selling for 40p a pound against 60p a pound this time last year.

Although offset by the falling cost of chicken feed, the division is not expected to make any profit this year.

Ross Breeders, which runs 147 chicken farms worldwide, is being sold to a management buy-out team backed by BC Partners, the venture capitalists. It sells day-old chickens to breeders, who in turn sell to supermarkets. BC Partners has agreed to pay £92.5 million in cash and is assuming £8 million of debt.

Hillsdown will use the cash to repay borrowings, which will fall to £248 million. Its shares held at 75p yesterday.



Ready for take-off: Noddy, launched in America in September, has already achieved coverage on 88 per cent of PBS stations

Searle leaves Blagden

SHARES of Blagden Industries fell 18 per cent yesterday as the cash-rich chemicals company parted company with its chief executive and revealed talks aimed at leading to a takeover of the company had collapsed (Fraser Nelson writes).

Dick Searle, who became chief executive four years ago, has left the company after failing to agree terms with Blagden's suitors. Blagden was in takeover talks with three

companies, but none of them wanted to keep Blagden in one piece. David Kendall, chairman, said they all grew nervous about being able to sell on the unwanted divisions.

He said Mr Searle, who was brought in to rescue Blagden from near collapse, had left when it became clear the company would remain independent. Blagden was capitalised at £126 million, but has £83 mil-

Noddy a hit in the US for Chorion

By OUR CITY STAFF

NODDY, the children's character that has entertained generations of British children, is taking America by storm.

Chorion, the leisure and intellectual property group, yesterday claimed US ratings suggest *Noddy*, an American television show since September, has amassed an audience comparable with *Sesame Street*, America's longest-running children's show.

Noddy has already achieved 88 per cent coverage of American households on more than 200 PBS stations. Ratings show *Noddy* to be in the top five PBS children's shows, only beaten by established programmes such as *Teletubbies*.

Noddy is produced jointly by The Enid Blyton Company, a Chorion subsidiary, and BBC Worldwide. A full licensing and merchandising programme for North America is being developed. Publishing licenses have been acquired by Harper Collins. Publications International and Dorling Kindersley. Home video and audio rights have been taken up by PolyGram Video.

The Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Company has been appointed North American agent on behalf of the Enid Blyton Company and BBC Worldwide. Renowned for its success in turning *Teletubbies* into a multimillion dollar franchise in the US, Itsy Bitsy has already secured 11 licensing deals for *Noddy* covering toys, clothing and accessories.

Troubled Aspen seeks rescuer and issues a warning

By CHRIS AYRES

ASPEN, the diverse marketing and media services group, yesterday ended a turbulent year of trading by issuing a profits warning and effectively putting itself up for sale.

Shares in the company — which organises everything from supermarket coupons to in-flight advertising for airlines — fell 9p to 40p, compared with highs of 295p reached in 1996.

Aspen said that trading conditions had continued to deteriorate since its interim results on September 16, and that it would report an operating loss for the six months to December 31.

It added: "The board has concluded that it does not have sufficient resources to make the required level of investment across the group, and to support its development activities. In particular, investment is re-

quired to develop Aspen's retail media and agency businesses."

Aspen, which has been the subject of two failed takeover bids this year (from Photofest and Questus, the US investment firm), said it was in "preliminary discussions with a number of interested parties to explore the possibility of an offer for the entire issued share capital". The company is now worth about £6 million.

Aspen said it would close Crystal Film & Video, its TV crew and equipment hire business. The division made a loss of £70,000 last year.

Aspen said Crystal needed "significant additional capital investment to remain competitive" and that proceeds from its closure would be in the region of £250,000 after costs. This cash will be used to reduce Aspen's borrowings.

PowderJect boosted by successful vaccine trial

By PAUL DUKEMAN

THE world's first successful trial of a gene-based vaccine was reported yesterday by PowderJect Pharmaceuticals, the developer of a supersonic drug delivery gun.

Using PowderJect's device, researchers at Glaxo Wellcome were able to encourage the body's immune system to produce antibodies to protect against hepatitis B disease.

The achievement triggered a \$1 million (£600,000) milestone payment to PowderJect

— the first since signing its \$300 million collaboration deal with Glaxo Wellcome last March — and pushed its shares up 13p to 508p.

Paul Drayson, PowderJect's chairman and chief executive, said the phase I trial had produced very good results, eliciting the desired response in all 11 volunteers who have completed the programme of vaccinations.

PowderJect's device uses microscopic gold particles to fire genes, drugs or vaccines directly into cells. The company hopes to make its system a painless and

cost-effective alternative to traditional needle injections.

The company also announced that it is to test its technology with a conventional vaccine through a new collaboration with Pasteur Merieux Connaught, the vaccine division of Rhône-Poulenc of France.

Losses for the six months to September 30 increased to £4.8 million (£2.6 million), reflecting doubled research and development spending of £6 million.

Tempos, page 30

Treant cautious on sales as profits rise

TREANT, the flavourings and fragrances group, admitted yesterday that its order book has been in decline for several months, and that the outlook was difficult to forecast because of customers' wariness of the general economic uncertainty. For the year ended September 30, the company reported pre-tax profit 39 per cent higher at £2.17 million. It said it was "a much improved performance" as it was not so badly affected by industry de-stocking, which hit business in 1997.

Turnover was slightly lower at £22.1 million (£22.6 million), because of the strength of sterling and lower world prices of the company's biggest raw materials. UK sales, which account for 25 per cent of group sales, fell 5 per cent. Business to the rest of Europe was up 4 per cent, while North America was 5 per cent higher. South American sales fell and sales to the rest of the world dropped 11 per cent, primarily because of the Far East slowdown. Earnings per share were up 49 per cent at 15.6p and the final dividend of 4.4p makes a total for the year of 6.4p, up from 6.0p.

Wedgwood contract

WEDGWOOD, the ceramics arm of Waterford Wedgwood, has signed a three-year contract with Paul Costelloe, the fashion designer, to develop four ranges of tableware. The group said it would be investing considerable resources in the ranges, which will be designed by Mr Costelloe in collaboration with the Wedgwood design team. They will be aimed at younger consumers and will be launched late next year. Waterford Wedgwood has previously had successful collaborations with designers including Versace and John Rocha.

Aggreko buys in US

AGGREKO, the power equipment rental group, is buying the rental assets of Tower Tech, a manufacturer of cooling towers in the United States, for \$13.5 million (£8.2 million) in cash. Tower Tech's cooling towers are used by the nuclear, pharmaceutical and petrochemical industries for the cooling of discharge water as well as by other manufacturers for temperature control and air conditioning. In the year to November 30 Tower Tech's income from cooling tower rental totalled \$5.5 million.

Peel extends portfolio

PEEL HOTELS, the AIM-listed vehicle of Robert Peel, the former Thistle Hotels chief, is to acquire the Midland Hotel in Bradford for £42.5 million. The deal, which because of Peel's size is classed as a reverse takeover, will be funded with £28 million of debt from the Royal Bank of Scotland and the balance in new Peel shares. As a result of the share placing, Mr Peel's stake in the company will be cut from 60 per cent to 46 per cent. The 90-room hotel is Peel's second owned property after the Bull at Peterborough. It also manages a package of 29 former Thistle hotels.

Carclo in £9.2m deal

CARCLO, the engineering group, yesterday announced the acquisition of Combined Optical Industries from Quadramatic for £9.2 million cash, with a further £2 million in cash due in June 2000, subject to sales targets. Combined Optical, which will be renamed CTP Coil, designs and makes plastic mouldings for optical sensing equipment used in the automotive, telecoms and medical markets. Carclo's pre-tax profits fell to £5.7 million (£8.1 million) for the six months to September 30. Earnings were down to 6.8p (9.4p) per share; the interim dividend remains at 3.44p.

Worthington jumps

MAKING bungee jumping ropes has helped Worthington, the furniture textiles group, to avoid the worst effects of the downturn in high street sales. Henry Schuldenfrei, chairman and chief executive, said the diverse range of products made by the company had offset falling sales in its core furniture trimmings business. In the half year to September 30, pre-tax profits were flat at £1.9 million on turnover marginally down at £18.6 million (£19 million). The interim dividend rises to 1.065p a share from 1p. Commentary, page 29

Bullough's £16.9m sale

BULLOUGH, the industrial engineering company, has sold three refrigeration businesses for £16.9 million. The buyer is a new company with equity funds managed by 3i, the venture capital group, and debt funding provided by Bank of Scotland. The businesses being sold comprise Hubbard Refrigeration, a distributor of ice making equipment; Taylor Freezer, a distributor of ice cream and other catering equipment; and Hubbard Group Services, which supplies equipment to the catering industry.

Keller wins contracts

KELLER GROUP, the global ground engineering services company, has been awarded transport infrastructure contracts totalling £20 million. In America Keller has been awarded a Kentucky contract valued at \$28 million (£17 million) for ground improvement work on Route 9. This project is part of a broader national programme and Keller hopes for further related work. The company has also won contracts in Germany and Australia, the latter linked to the Sydney 2000 Olympics for support in the expansion of Sydney airport.

ScottishPower
Shareholder information update

If you want
to hear more
about the merger with

PACIFICORP

Please call
0800 917 9194

This document has been approved by Morgan Stanley & Co. Limited, which is regulated by The Securities & Futures Authority Limited, solely for purposes of section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986. Morgan Stanley & Co. Limited is acting for ScottishPower in connection with the merger and for no other purpose and will not be responsible to anyone other than ScottishPower for providing the protections afforded to customers of Morgan Stanley & Co. Limited or for providing advice in relation to the merger.

10

OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION

VISUAL ART
Goi
wor
an O
I
Loner
on his



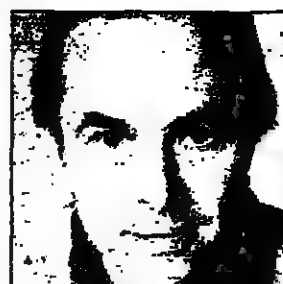
POP

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC

Why Mark
Elder relishes
Rimsky

PAGE 37



VISUAL ART: Eggs in varied styles make up a large part of Rosemarie Trockel's work — but not all, says Richard Cork

Going to work on an oeuvre

In one of Rosemarie Trockel's shortest and most arresting videos a naked woman stands with her back to the camera. The top of her body is out of shot, and we soon discover why attention is focused below. For an egg suddenly drops from her parted legs and smashes on the floor. Liquid spills out, so dark that it looks like blood. But before we have a chance to find out, Trockel terminates the work in a vanishing circle of light.

Brief though it may be, *Out of the Kitchen into the First* encapsulates some of Trockel's concerns. Ever since the German established herself as a provocative young artist in the early 1980s, she has returned time and again to the themes of frailty, fecundity and femininity. The fascination takes many forms: like many women artists of her generation, Trockel has never limited herself to a particular medium or way of working. Nor does she imprison herself within a particular mood. Whether cool or high-spirited, investigative or irreverent, she can be relied on only to be unpredictable.

Eggs, nevertheless, provide a way in. They reappear so often in the early stages of her Whitechapel exhibition that I found myself moving gingerly, fearing a breakage. In their most monumental form, they fill an expanse of wallpaper stretching across a wide wall. Photographed there in several registered rows, like the most austere of Minimalist reliefs, they are almost robbed of reality. In the centre, though, purged abstraction gives way to a quite different order of feeling. Like a white beaded curtain, hundreds of real blown eggs dangle in front of the wallpaper. They are the quintessence of vulnerability, and

their emptiness has a pathos of its own.

Trockel does not associate eggs solely with humans. A homely wooden structure nearby, called *Chicken Coop*, opens into the kind of cosy, reassuring interior where eggs used to be hatched before battery farming turned the whole activity into such an arid, mechanical exercise. But women are not forgotten, even here. On the open door of *Chicken Coop* hangs a black dress festooned with egg beads and, to mark the breasts, two isolated eggs — one whole, one smashed. Trockel always seems to oscillate between these two extremes.

No slight distinction separates fowl from humans in Trockel's fertile imagination. In *Living Means Knitting Tights* eggs are strung like grenades beside the thighs of a young woman who stares, with a secret intensity, at photographs of eggs from a whole array of species. She could personify the artist herself, for Trockel appraises the world with an anthropologist's gaze.

There is nothing drily academic about her stance, though. The clinical style she seems to adopt in her images of *Couples* at the start of the show should not be confused with coldness. At first, the stiff, black-and-white prints of naked men and women may appear akin to those found in sex manuals. But these bodies offer no how-to information about positions in love-making. Many of them sit or lie next to each other, and one couple do not even touch. Instead, these lovers are savouring one another's company. They hold hands, nuzzle affectionately and let their legs overlap. Trockel makes us con-



The young woman who appears in *Living Means Knitting Tights* could personify the artist herself, for Rosemarie Trockel appraises the world with an anthropologist's gaze

scious of their sculptural form by using computer technology to extract them from their surroundings, placing them on pristine, bleached ground. Isolating and exposing the couples in emptiness does not impair their intimacy, however. The accent is on personal encounters between healthy people whose pleasure is never presented in a titillating way.

The broken-egg side of her imagination does not remain dormant for long, however. Upstairs, a bleak vision asserts itself in a new work, *Sea-world*. The title suggests a

land, tourist-themed experience, manipulated to ensure that only the most palatable aspects of marine life are presented. But Trockel scuttles any such paradise from the outset. A small sailing boat, almost blocks our path, its emptiness accentuated by the clothes, gym shoes and other signs of recent occupancy strewn across the vessel. It looks forlorn, and the images beamed on to the creased sail by an automatic slide projector only increase the disquiet. Based on Hamburg, they flick restlessly from four views of the indus-

trialised docks to the water and back again. The polluted murkiness of the sea shores subverts any sentimental notions about a marine paradise. As for the nocturnal images, where the water is almost engulfed in blackness, they recall the dying moments of Tacita Dean's film inspired by Donald Crowhurst's disappearance. But Trockel is here more allied than the romantic Dean to a documentary tradition. She photographs the sailors who work for low wages on the ships in Hamburg harbour. They frown at

her camera, as if wondering why the lens has been trained on them. The jauntiness of local broadcasters, whose chatter and music can be heard on a radio beneath the projector, cannot disguise the cheerlessness of a world summed up by the unwelcoming, banal bulk of the International Seamen's Club building.

No consolation can be found in the family portraits near the end of the show. *Mother* is reduced to a grim, wizened mask in alabaster plaster, surrounded on the same wall by charcoal drawings where her face sprouts grotesque protrusions. *Father* is still more unnerving, his features literally defaced to the point of outright obliteration. We are close, here, to the emotional territory explored beneath the wars by Kathe Kollwitz, whose drawing of a stunned, elderly figure has been photocopied and then given new meaning in Trockel's revision. A vein of gruesome, fairytale humour erupts in some of these portraits, particularly when blindfolded men sprout phallic noses and a woman is compared with a primped-up

poodle. On the whole, though, Trockel reveals herself here as a surgical observer of humanity. There is an incisive lodged at the centre of her art, and no amount of loving bodily contact can thaw it.

● Rosemarie Trockel at Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (0171-522 7888) until Feb 7

The Times Artangel
Open: Friday Dec 18 is
the deadline for entries.
Call 0171-490 0226 for
more information

Loner hangs his heart on his wonder walls

Rachel Campbell-Johnston admires the deceptive simplicity in the paintings of Craigie Aitchison

If you can't see the point of Craigie Aitchison's paintings at first glance (and a reproduction doesn't count, then you never will. There is an innocence and spontaneity to his work, a sense of wonder. You either get it or you don't. But those who do will find it easy to understand why, over a 40-year career, Aitchison has earned such esteem as an artistic loner.

His current show — split between two West End galleries — clearly illustrates his idiosyncrasy. Look at a recent piece such as *Calvary*. It is childlike in its clarity. The three crosses stand stark against a midnight sky, pallid bodies draped like wet sheets on a windless day. A grey dog gazes up into Christ's quiet face. A crescent moon cuts a

silver out of the dark, articulating the emptiness. The whole scene is infused with an aching sense of loneliness.

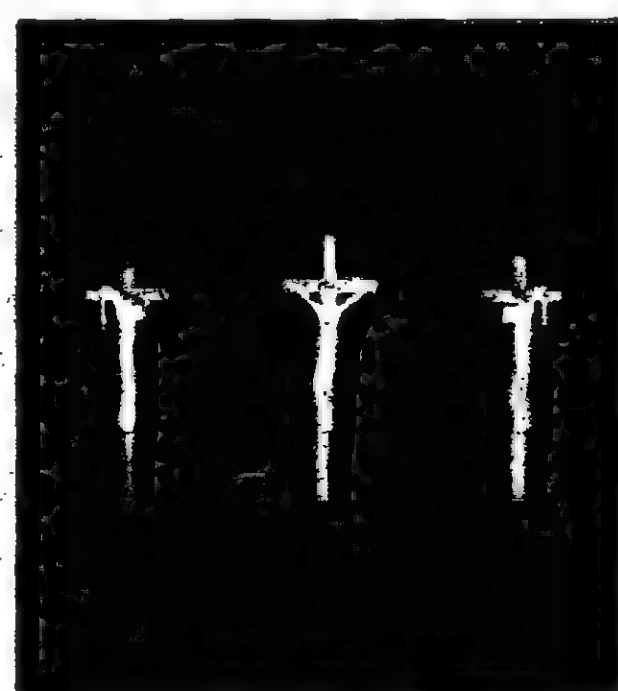
This painting, like all his work, is exquisitely simple. Much more has been left out than has been put in. The spick figures are dwarfed by sweeping fields of colour. Features are absent or rendered in scratchy lines. But the simplicity is deceptive. Aitchison's work is the result of studious reduction. "I spend the whole time altering things," he says, "kicking the paint in and then rubbing it away, moving it around until it works. I just feel when it's right."

Feeling is what infuses all Aitchison's work. His subjects are familiar things: his beloved Bedlington terriers, Holy Island as seen from his Arran

holiday home, the cypress he once planted in an Italian garden or the frostbitten songbird which, one winter's morning, he found dead on his windowsill and has preserved in a tiny coffin ever since. "I've looked after him for 35 years," Aitchison says. His choice may be idiosyncratic but it is always heartfelt.

Perhaps this is because instinct informs his vision. His portraits, for example, are all of black people "because black people are stunning in the way that colour vibrates against their skin". He sets the soft tumblers of a dreadlocked rasta against a field of sour pink.

"You can only get brightness if you have darkness," Aitchison says. A superb colourist, he applies this principle to all his works: to a burn-



Aching loneliness: *Calvary* (1997-98) by Craigie Aitchison

ing strip of dawn which leaks into vast purple skies, or the bright tatter of a boat's flag against a deep strip of sea.

The purity of his colour studies and abstracts. This combines with a childlike wonder,

so that the further Aitchison gets from reality, the more closely he seems to touch it.

● Craigie Aitchison is at Timothy Taylor (0171-409 3340) and Wadlington (0171-437 8611) until December 15

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

Pauline Boty (1938-1966) flickers in the memory of maybe a dozen television dramas and a walk-on in *Alfie* as the quintessential blonde dolly-girl. But in 1993 her art attracted attention in the Barbican's big Sixties Art Scene show, and in a one-person tribute at the Mayor and Gallery. Now she is on show again at the Mayor, and at Whitford Fine Art; there is also a book. The interesting thing about her work is that it is at once typical Pop Art, and not quite like anyone else.

Sometimes it is vividly coloured, in hindsight Monty Pythonesque abstraction; sometimes it uses the publicity images of contemporary male and female glamour; sometimes it resolves itself into Surrealist collage. It can be seen as at once reveling in and subverting the popular culture of the Sixties. It is all confident and controlled, with a sure sense of artistic purpose. What might she have done if she had not died of cancer at 28?

Whitford Fine Art, 6 Duke Street, SW1 (0171-930 9332). Mayor Gallery, 22a Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 3558), until Dec 18

■ OVER nearly half a century Margaret Neve has been refining her own personal vision of the here and the hereafter. Her mystical landscapes are evidently inspired by the Welsh hills among which she lives, but more immediately they inscribe themselves in the pantheistic British tradition of following the visionary gleam wherever it may lead. Neve's technique is extraordinary, painting in oils with the finest of watercolour brushes to build up the surface of her wooden panels in a myriad tiny dots. But it is a great tribute to her that the technique immediately vanishes from the viewer's consciousness, so directly does soul speak to soul.

Montpelier Sandeaset, SW7 (0171-584 0687), until Dec 19

■ Jila Peacock is another merchant of dreams. In her case the *Silent Opera* of her new show is inspired partly by Matisse, but even more by a magical, mythical Middle East: probably something to do with her being born in Tehran, and also with her having left when barely ten. Peacock worked as a doctor before her

art took over, and the imagery of her father's medical books may also have gone somehow into the mix. The result is completely personal: these strange, mysterious canvases glow with jewel-like colour, and cheerfully raise questions without apparently thinking that solutions should be part of the artist's stock-in-trade. *Piano Nobile*, 129 Portland Road, W11 (0171-229 1099) until Dec 19

■ Kitty North probably thinks of herself as a landscape painter, recording faithfully the rugged surroundings of her home in North Yorkshire. But the solitude of the fells can have strange effects, and more often than not the bare facts of topography become buried in flurries and eddies and incrustations of paint, until, but for the evidence of a sun (or moon?) in the upper half of the picture, one might take it for a complete abstraction.

Swan Mead Gallery, 1-4 Swan Mead, London SE1 (0171-394 0733), until Dec 21

JOHN RUSSELL
TAYLOR

NO GENIES. NO BEANSTALKS. NO GLASS SLIPPERS.

just
100% explosive
entertainment

APOLLO VICTORIA THEATRE
CALL THE BOX OFFICE FOR DETAILS OF SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES - 0171-416 6059.

LISTINGS

Snowman for London

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

LONDON

GYPSY BALLAD: The homage to the dramatic Federico Garcia Lorca features piano music by Albéniz and Locuena, and the poet's own texts performed in Spanish and English. Purcell Room, SE1 (0171-950 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW ORLEANS WALLS ORCHESTRA: Wyn Morris conducts an illustrious concert of Romantic music played in the late 19th-century style. Roger Montgomery is soloist in Richard Strauss's First Piano Concerto. The Royal Albert Hall, SW1 (0171-950 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

M PEOPLE: The enormously popular soul and dance band, fronted by Heather Small, are joined by support act Lyndon David Hall. Wembley Arena (0181-902 0002). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE SNOWMAN: Raymond Briggs's modern Christmas classic, now 20 years old, is staged by Bill Alexander and presented by Birmingham Rep. Peacock, WC2 (0171-482 8222). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE: Gregory Doran's production from Stratford, chiefly notable for Philip Voss's superb Shylock. Barbican, EC2 (0171-482 8881). Tonight, 7pm. In repertoire.

ELSEWHERE

CAMBRIDGE: The 57 Scottish Ensemble is touring Tiers of the Angels, a selection of inspiring music by the Scottish composer. The Edinburgh Festival, 1998. The Edinburgh Festival, 1998. The Edinburgh Festival, 1998.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

Scotland still thinks he's sexy



Searching for heroes: M People take on Wembley

Rod Stewart must have known he was in for an easy ride before he so much as stepped on stage in Glasgow on Sunday evening. By the time the lights went down, there was already a party atmosphere inside the venue. And when the curtain rose to reveal Stewart standing alone in front of a 40ft Lion Rampant, the high-pitched, hysterical screams of mostly middle-aged women would not have sounded out of place at a Boyzone gig.

Before the show began, video screens at either side of the stage relayed a short sketch, featuring Stewart wishing his fans a happy Christmas. Its playful, family-orientated mood was indicative of the two-and-a-half-hour performance which was to follow. The opening night of a ten-date British tour, the concert turned out to be a sanitised trawl through the singer's extensive back catalogue.

Naturally, there was also a new album to promote. When *We Were the New Boys*, Stewart's recently released collection of contemporary covers, spawned the evening's opening number, an utterly soulless version of Oasis's *Cigarettes and Alcohol*. The lyrics may have suited Stewart's repertoire, but the song's emotionless rock riffs did no justice to his still superb, bluesy vocals.

The audience did not seem to mind, but two tracks later it became clear what they really wanted to hear — the old hits. Dressed in skin-tight, black PVC trousers, an electric-blue jacket and a lime-green shirt, Stewart almost made amends for the dismal start with a raunchy *Hot Legs*. But it was with a handful of tracks from the classic albums *Every Picture Tells a Story* and *A Night on the Town* that the gig began in earnest. The first of many highlights was a gorgeously gruff *The First Cut Is the Deepest*, while a rock'n'roll-fuelled *Stay With Me* — with some great faces footage — shot the arena with adrenaline.

Backed by a six-piece band, a trio of black male backing singers and a simple, silver stage set, Stewart sprinkled classic tracks over a number of perfunctory performances. While *Tonight's the Night* (which he said sent a shiver down his spine), *You're in My Heart* and *Maggie* may have the audience singing in unison



POP

Rod Stewart

SECC, Glasgow

and *Walking Matilda* and *I Don't Wanna Talk About It* were truly spellbinding. The 1980s chart-topper *Young Hearts*, Primal Scream cover *Rocks* and sax-driven dance track *Action* were awful.

Ever the showman, Stewart kicked footballs into the crowd, underwent endless costume changes and chatted to his fans as if they were friends. Although his dance routines were not a patch on his mate Mick Jagger's, with 21 songs in the set he was probably wise to conserve his energy.

The gig ended with a 40-minute romp through Stewart's most commercial pop moments, including *Baby Jane*, *This Old Heart of Mine*, *Sailing* and Sam Cooke's *We're Having a Party*, during which dozens of white balloons fell from the ceiling. As the crowd chanted along to *Twisting the Night Away*, Stewart pulled a tiny boy in a tartan scarf on to the stage from the front row. With snow settling outside, to the singer's adopted home audience it felt as if Christmas had arrived a little early.

LISA VERRICO

Masterminds missing in action

That Massive Attack are now more famous for being rude to the Duchess of York than for their extraordinarily chilled music is rich with irony. No band has been more contemptuous of the shallow, attention-seeking stunts of the pop world and for eight years they groomed an image of studied anonymity that earned them the tag "the coolest band on the planet".

Then last month's four-letter-word onslaught on the duchess at the MTV Europe awards gave them the front-page notoriety they had always professed to despise, the best tabloid tale of its kind since Chumbawamba dined John Prescott. Not that the Bristol trio who invented the languid beats of trip-hop really needed it. Their British tour was sold out and their album

Mezzanine is high in every best-of-the-year poll.

Yet these stadium dates have served to expose the paradox of Massive Attack as a live act. Their music, with its sampling and loops, is essentially a studio creation and none of the band's three core members, 3D, Daddy G and Mezzanine, have ever played an instrument. Yet as these shadowy backroom musical bods became one of the biggest bands of the decade, the need to create a more substantial live show grew pressing. Their solution was to hire a bunch of session players to support the guest vocalists they use on record. The result is a spectacular and atmospheric show but one in which the three protagonists are marginal figures, for long periods not even on stage at all.

Their hired guns opened with a barrage of noise, and with their lightning and guitar-tinged Angelo Bruschini's ringing prog-rock guitar, it all sounded rather like *Dark Side of the Moon* for the 1990s. Horace Andy, the 47-year-old reggae veteran, then appeared to sing the smooth duet of Angel but it was a good ten minutes before the three band members ambled on stage to rap and scratch briefly on *Rising* before vacating the scene once more to Andy.

Not formally a member of the band at all, Andy is the star live attraction, his sweet tones contrasting magnificently with the dark textures and heart-stopping beats that constitute the Massive sound-track. He swooped and soared on songs such as *Man Next Door* and *Big Wheel*, often joined by the soulful Deborah Miller, while former Cocteau Twin Liz Fraser added her ethereal voice to *Teardrop*.

Massive Attack have made the transition from studio to stadium with skill, creating a show with an undoubted sense of pomp and grandeur. Yet during the final encore, as Miller sang the dramatic, string-drenched *Unfinished Sympathy* with only one bona-fide band member in sight, you could not help wondering whether their presence was necessary at all.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

ALYN SHIPTON

produced pieces for the Apollo, but in doing so, many lose their intrinsic quality. Argüelles is the exception, and his new quartet began with the instruments adopting conventional jazz roles: the soprano emulating reed or brass sections, while the alto and baritone produced a choppy rhythmic underlay.

Argüelles used similar techniques in a set of pieces newly commissioned by Birmingham Jazz for his octet, which played the second half of the concert.

The opening *Coffee and Diesel* was a singularly ugly piece of work, and hampered by a poor balance, the band failed to get a solo over earlier appearances by the same group, it took a mastery performance by bass clarinetist Iain Dixon to pull everything together, and on *Mind Your Head* he built a solo over several choruses that had the rest of the band falling in behind him in an array of joyous Caribbean-inspired backing.

From this moment on, the combination was intoxicating. Writing of the first order by Argüelles was matched by some inspired playing. Gerard Presencer on *The Falling Curtain* producing a flugelhorn solo so intense, that the audience could barely stir to applaud before pianist Marco Leguina took his place. Despite the skill with which Argüelles wrote for saxophone quartet, his real forte is writing for a jazz ensemble, and his own current octet in particular.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

ALYN SHIPTON

OPERA & BALLET

COLLEGE HALL (0171 950 4242)

THE NUTCRACKER

Dec 15-16, Mon-Sat 7.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

THEATRES

ALMAHAT AT THE ALBERT

Dec 15-16, Mon-Sat 7.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

THEATRES

ALMAHAT AT THE ALBERT

Dec 15-16, Mon-Sat 7.30

Mat 11.15, Sat 1.30, Sun 3.30

CONCERTS

Rimsky finds a champion

ARTS

CLASSICAL CDS

Best of Haydn's 'Military'

MUSIC: Mark Elder's long-held passion for Rimsky-Korsakov bears fruit in London this week. John Allison met him

English maestro but Russian soul

Even for a conductor who takes all his concerts seriously, one single programme can have a lot of significance. Much thought has gone into the all-Russian event Mark Elder conducts on Thursday in the London Philharmonic's Rimsky-Korsakov Festival, and strong feelings too: all the works are close to his heart, and he has been waiting for years to do some of the music.

This is the programme that, textbook-like, puts Rimsky in context as the central figure of Russian musical history. It stretches from Glinka's *Kamenskaya*, described by Tchaikovsky as the acorn from which the oak-tree of Russian music grew, to Stravinsky's early *Scherzo fantastique*, written under Rimsky's tutelage.

Rimsky is best known for a few orchestral showpieces, and largely ignored as the creator of 15 operas, the teacher of other composers including Prokofiev, and the figure who salvaged Mussorgsky's and many others' posthumous reputations. It is doubly fitting that the operatic version of Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*, from *Sorochintsa Fair*, should be featured on Thursday: this ingeniously cross-referenced programme also includes excerpts from Rimsky's early opera *May Night*, and both pieces drew their literary inspiration from the same set of Gogol tales.

May Night is a work of which Elder speaks passionately. He is almost as enthusiastic about the suite from Rimsky's penultimate opera, *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh*, which he describes as opening with "what one might call the best Russian folk tune". No one who knows this wonderful music would disagree. But why is a conductor most noted for his white-hot Verdi and Wagner paying such attention to these works? The story begins 25 years ago, in a country not usually associated with Russian music. "My career really started in Australia, where I was invited by Ted Downes, who has a great Russian interest," Elder says. "We were preparing to open the Sydney Opera House with Prokofiev's *War and Peace* — a work that gave every Australian singer a chance — and I remember reading the book every morning on the bus. From that moment I developed a fascination

with things Russian. I'd been interested in Czech opera at university, but this love of Russian opera developed unexpectedly. It was in Melbourne that I found a wonderful little communist bookshop — near the Prince's Theatre, where I made my debut — run by the mother of a girl who played in the orchestra. She was Russian, but didn't know what scores she had — scores of all sorts of things in fantastic hardbound editions.

"Then there were the Melodiya records which also meant nothing to her; obviously the Soviets used to ship them all over the world. I bought them all, and when I got them home I found to my astonishment this piece I knew nothing about, called *May Night*. For me this was a really major experience."

Elder recalls how he learnt from those records about countless great singers, and how he got a sense of the style. Although he has gone on to conduct several Russian operas, including ENO's unforgettable productions of Tchaikovsky's *Mazeppa* and Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, he has

"There's a deep side to Rimsky that is sometimes neglected"

not until now tackled *May Night*. "We are doing the overture plus most of Act I, omitting a couple of scenes with the Charcoal Burner. This work is a masterpiece: magical, humorous, with characters that seem so real. The Act III underworld is evoked by the first use in history of chromatic glissandos on barps. There's a consistency of invention throughout. Sometimes Rimsky can seem like a brilliant chef working with slightly inferior ingredients, but this shows him to be a real theatre composer."

Rimsky has a significant place in Elder's musical pantheon. "There's a deep side to him, an understanding of the theatre, and an ability to create powerful orchestral magic. One has to see his whole output, including the chamber music. There's even a charming Trombone Concerto, for instance. But having written charming music is not a very 'sexy' quality in a composer now. When our profession is struggling to survive, charm is not very high on the agenda, but let's hope it returns."

All this Russian music is a good antidote to *Parsifal*, for which Elder returns to ENO in February. He also conducts *Lohengrin* in Paris next year,



Conductor Mark Elder in his studio: it was while he was helping to launch the Sydney Opera House, as Edward Downes's assistant, that he developed a love of all things Russian

Pioneer, survivor, and much more

It is already 30 years since John Eliot Gardiner made his momentous Proms appearance conducting the Monteverdi Vespers. Now silver-haired and a knight of the realm, he has watched many a tyro period-band conductor burst upon the scene, yet always managed to stay ahead of the game. His Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists are as accomplished as any ensemble in the business, and far from loosening his grip, his performances seem more tightly controlled than ever.

That is not meant as a criticism: one could not fail to be impressed by the alertness of the musicians as Gardiner came on to launch the invigorating opening of Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Executing that chorus, and the whole work, with knife-edge precision, he and

they breathed vibrant life into an old warhorse without resorting to gimmicks.

Where some less experienced rivals would attempt to generate vitality with implausibly fast speeds, Gardiner unerringly seizes on the harmonic and rhythmic characteristics of each movement to shape a satisfying account of the whole. Thus the choral interjections of "miserere" in the alto's "Domine Deus" exploited Vivaldi's rich, unpredictable harmonies to maximum effect, while the fugue writing of the final section was delivered in taut, muscular style.

In Bach's setting of Luther's Easter hymn, *Christ lag in Todesbanden*, BWV 4, the seven stanzas were bound by a unifying thread, from the spare, sombre opening sinfonia to the final majestic "Halleluja". Within that framework,

CONCERTS
Monteverdi
Choir/Gardiner
Barbican

there was room for illuminating and contrasting detail, such as the dancing rhythms closing the first stanza, the exquisitely phrased "Halleluja" of the second (described as "in-

initely sad" by Gardiner), and the astonishing variety of tonal colour throughout. It was a fitting advertisement for Gardiner's mighty project to perform all of Bach's cantatas in the anniversary year of 2000.

The virtuoso demands in Handel's *Dixit Dominus* caused few problems. Inevitably the members of the choir thrust into the taxing solo roles were not able to sustain quite the same level of technical mastery, but there was

some fine singing from several individuals, notably the bass Julian Clarkson. Just as Handel flexes his compositional muscles in this work from his early Italian years, so Gardiner's forces revelled in their collective virtuosity, responding to expressive detail with remarkable control of tension and release. As a final tour de force, the Gloria was encored a notch faster still.

BARRY MILLINGTON

IN THE last four ENO performances of the run of Boris Godunov at the Coliseum the title role is being taken by Gidon Saks; this and other cast changes confirm the basic strength of Francesca Zambello's production despite one or two puzzlements. Item: if Robert Tear's deliciously slimy shuisky is patently running the show from the word go and is all set to take over, then why does he allow Boris to become Tsar in the first place? Maybe Zambello has been studying British politics more closely than we knew; those of a cynical bent might detect the hint of a Blair-Mandelson scenario somewhere in here.

Saks is one of those singers who walks on and the stage starts vibrating. As with John Tomlinson in the first cast, there's that sort of elemental

A Boris fit to be feared

OPERA

power to his persona, but at first sight this Boris is already a deeply troubled human being — and from then on it's downhill all the way. He risks good, old-fashioned scenery-chewing acting, externalising his agony to mesmerising effect in the study scene, and he is one of those singer-actors who can change his appearance: the way his face gradually seemed to sag, disintegrate

almost, as the performance progressed added greatly to the terror of his interpretation. His polished-granite bass-belted tone is ideal for the role, and he drew some long, expressive legato lines in among the histrionics. Strong stuff.

Graeme Danby took over as Fimen, his narrations as clear, sober and sonorous as John Connell's, and there was a new, eager and vulnerable Tsarevich in David Wigram, shaking his father's corpse in sheer incomprehension before being contemptuously snuffed out by Robert Salvatore's beautifully sung Schelcalov.

Noel Davies has taken over in the pit, last Friday's performance was not always precisely together, but had strong operatic profile.

RODNEY MILNES

Banging on about not much

To see such a good audience for a concert on the current Concerts rary Music Network tour was encouraging, and it was reassuring to hear it so well performed. At the same time it was disturbing to speculate on what those attracted to the Sheldonian Theatre by the star status of Evelyn Glennie and amused by the witty presentation skills of Diego Masson and the London Sinfonietta were actually getting out of the event in musical terms.

The touring programme, which reaches its last destination in Cambridge tomorrow, is not only messy in shape but also far too variable in quality. A little Piazzolla, in this case his *Tango Seco*, never does any harm. It is true, and Kugel's West from *The Compass Rose* does have an element of charm to compensate in part for its triviality. If Joby Talbot's crudely conceived and unrelievedly banal *Incandescence* has no redeeming features at all, Xenakis's *O-Mega* has an excuse for being there at least in that it is a recent work by a composer with a distinguished and historically significant past.

It might be enough that the Oxford audience were quite happy just to watch Glennie belabouring her percussion instruments as soloist in these last two pieces. She would, however, have belaboured

London Sinfonietta
Oxford

them to better effect and more rewardingly for all concerned in scores with more interesting musical content.

That leaves Yvar Mikhashoff's enterprising arrangement of Conlon Nancarrow's player-piano Study No 7, which sounds engagingly different with its metrical and textural complexities exposed by a large chamber ensemble, and David Sawer's *Tiroirs*.

Now there is a work worthy of the expert attentions of Masson and the Sinfonietta. It gives the impression of a score which might once have been dense in texture and thoroughly suffused by dance rhythms but which has now had much of its fabric cut away. Its principal feature is what is no longer present, its gaps where dance rhythms continue through silences, where melodic lines are drawn through isolated notes, where colours are transformed and dynamic levels reduced by the absence of a proportion of the elements proper to them. Beautifully and subtly performed as it was on this occasion, it is an entirely intriguing experience.

GERALD LARNER



Check us out on your TV for BBC on Christmas Day and every Saturday all year round

On December 25th national calls will cost no more than 50p — however long you stay on the phone.* But if you don't manage to catch up with everyone on Christmas Day, don't worry. Because the same goes for Boxing Day too.

In fact, from now on, the same goes for every Saturday all year round — if you're with Cable & Wireless. So, if you want a phone service where the season of goodwill lasts all year, give us a call today.

Free Call 1910 94 94
Nationwide service

CABLE & WIRELESS

* Local, international, non-geographic, data and calling card calls do not qualify. Applicable to residential customers only. All information correct as at 1st December 1998. Applications subject to status. Service, prices and savings subject to change. For quality of service purposes we may occasionally monitor or record your telephone calls to Cable & Wireless Call Centres. Cable & Wireless Communications Services Limited acts as agent for associated companies including those holding telecommunications licences. Cable & Wireless pursues a policy of continuous improvement of its products and services.

BUILDING A LIBRARY
A guide to the best available classical CD recordings, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

HAYDN'S SYMPHONY NO 100, THE "MILITARY"
reviewed by
William Mitchell

In his *Military Symphony* Haydn dressed himself in the 18th-century equivalent of a flak-jacket. By 1794, when the symphony had its first performance, almost the whole of Europe was at war with France. Sabre rattling was not just a novelty for the concert rooms, it was part of the highly charged atmosphere in which people lived their everyday lives. So Haydn had become an international audience for his work, an audi-

ence won over by his individual blend of intriguing effect and easy melody.

The "military" content of the symphony only really becomes clear in the second movement, when a simple theme is invaded by a battery of percussion. It is a striking idea and could only have strengthened Haydn's reputation for springing all kinds of exotic musical surprises.

On disc, you can really believe that Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra are an army on the march. But a lot of the musical details get ground into the mud underneath those heavy boots. Colin Davis and the Royal Concert-

gebouw Orchestra are slower and Davis shapes each musical phrase with much more individual attention.

Haydn ended his symphony with a kind of death-or-glory dash to the barbed wire of the enemy trenches. So the choice has to be the kind of conductor who would fight on with an empty revolver while all his troops lay around him. Slatkin and the Philharmonia almost do it, although there are times when the music is a little bit too cautious for my taste. Davis and the Concertgebouw are outstandingly musical but lack just that final ounce of crazed heroism that would have taken them to victory. My choice then is Antal Dorati in his 1974 recording with the Philharmonia Hungarica (Decca 452 256-2, 2-CDs, with Symphonies 93, 94, 97, 103 and 104, £14.99).

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCOR81, Forbes, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk
Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Handel's *Messiah*

LAW

Mad or bad — the dilemma of insanity

How can courts deal with the mentally ill?
Gary Slapper reports

are in the community has failed, and this week the Government is unveiling plans to help the mentally ill who are insufficiently protected from themselves and from others.

Only last month the stabbing of a social worker at a South London hostel for psychiatric patients raised the issue of how the law should deal with people who commit crimes while suffering from clinical mental conditions. Jenny Morrison was stabbed eight times and a former patient at a psychiatric hospital, has been charged with her murder.

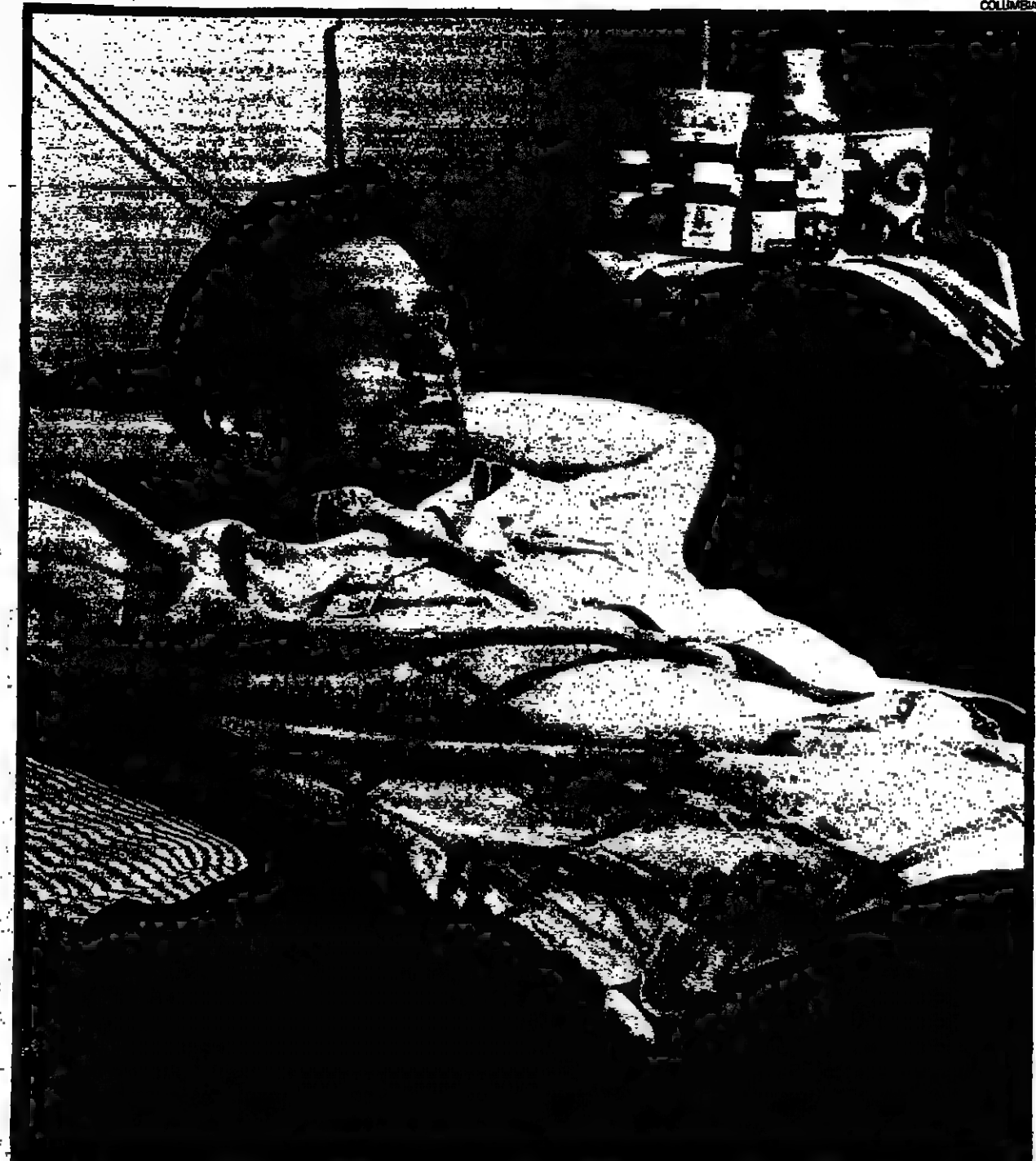
Nowhere is the "mad or bad" dichotomy reflected in a more confused way than in the criminal law's approach to insanity. For some people, it is curious that the perpetrators of terrible crimes can be seen as anything other than psychopaths and in need of treatment. In what circumstances can a deranged and savage person be judged as "normal" then simply thrown in front of a judge and jury in an ordinary criminal trial, and convicted and punished?

Mental illness is a huge social problem. Two million children in the UK suffer from mental ill-health, of whom 250,000 have severe problems. One in ten of us will at some time suffer a mental disorder. More than 50 people in Britain have been murdered by the mentally ill since 1993.

Kenneth McCallum thought he was the Devil when he killed his father with a 12in kitchen knife, and then stabbed his mother. Yet in Edinburgh last month, McCallum, 27, whose condition was diagnosed as schizophrenia, was acquitted by a jury on the basis that he was "not guilty by reason of insanity". He will thus be sent to a secure mental institution.

By contrast, Michael Stone was last month jailed for life for the murders of Lin and Megan Russell. Stone has a history of mental illness, and before the killings had requested hospital treatment (which had been denied). Yet after the case, Ruth Carnall, West Kent Health Authority's chief executive, said: "I think we can say with some certainty that Michael Stone was not mad."

Criminal law on insanity is based on 19th-century legal and medical assumptions. There have been calls for radical change of the rules, including the 1975 report of the Butler Committee on Mentally Abnormal Offenders, but the law is still in a muddle of outdated thinking. At the core of the problems are the different criteria



Robert De Niro as a paranoid killer in *Taxi Driver*. Mental illness has become a huge social problem

of madness preferred in law and psychiatry.

In a House of Lords case concerning the circumstances in which a psychopathic offender can be released into the community, Lord Lloyd of Berwick recently highlighted the awkward relationship between the law and psychiatry. Sometimes, Parliament can legislate without envisaging that "an existing psychiatric disorder might be regarded as treatable today and untreatable tomorrow owing to a change in psychiatric thinking".

The basis of the law on insanity, which permits the insane to be found not guilty of any crime, because of their condition, is that such people are not responsible for their actions. If a toddler pushes a brick out of a window and it kills someone, we do not prosecute the child, because it is not responsible for its actions, or their consequences. The same reasoning applies to acquit the insane. The judgment of a case in 1800 notes that "It is the Reason of Man that makes him accountable

for his actions... and the deprivation of reason acquits him of crime."

The guiding principles of insanity in law are found in the M'Naghten Rules, which arose from a case in 1843. M'Naghten had shot and killed a man, whom he believed was Sir Robert Peel, the Home Secretary. He had acted under a "morbid delusion" that he was being persecuted by the police at the Government's behest.

There was political disquiet at his acquittal. The judges formulated a new set of rules, starting with the proposition that every man is presumed to be sane and responsible for his crimes. The defence of insanity would be open only to someone who, at the time of a crime, was "labouring under such a defect of reason, from disease of the mind, as not to know the nature and quality of the act he was doing; or, if he did know it, that he did not know what he was doing was wrong".

In cases in 1984 and 1989,

the definition of insanity was held to cover epilepsy and a certain sort of diabetic problem. Where the sufferer has a build-up of blood sugar through failure to take insulin, the problem can then be seen as an internal organic one within the definition of insanity. But if a diabetic suffers from a dip in blood sugar, through an overdose of insulin, the cause of any loss of rationality is legally seen as external rather than insanity.

It is remarkable that, at a time when so many patients are receiving "care in the community", insanity (the only appropriate defence they can use if accused of a crime), is successfully used by defendants fewer than 20 times a year. A royal commission on capital punishment in 1953 deemed the M'Naghten Rules "obsolete and misleading". Unfortunately, nothing fundamental in the insanity laws has changed since.

Dr Slapper is director of the Law Programme at the Open University.

Fraudbusters get set for Euro action

Reforms will stop criminals abusing different state laws to evade justice, says John Spencer

A row broke out last week when a national newspaper warned its readers against something called Corpus Juris, which it presented as a Brussels plot to replace the criminal procedure of England and Wales and its ancient rights of habeas corpus and trial by jury with something called "the Napoleonic system".

This is not correct. What lies behind the project is the problem of budgetary fraud. The European Union budget loses out when fraudsters evade the various taxes and duties that provide its income, or when they claim grants and subsidies to which they are not entitled. These frauds net enormous sums of money for clever international criminals. Such frauds are difficult to prosecute, because despite the virtual abolition of EU frontiers for trade and travel, the criminal justice system of every member state is still a "legal island". Each has its own criminal offences, most of which apply only to acts within its territory. So different parts of the same fraud must be prosecuted in different countries under different rules.

First, each separate national prosecution needs evidence from abroad. English search warrants are not valid in Paris or in Athens, and vice versa; nor do our (or their) courts have any power to compel the attendance of witnesses who are abroad. Overseas evidence must be sought by a slow process similar to extradition — which must be used to secure the arrest of the defendant if he or she is abroad. Each country has its own system of police, fraud investigators and public prosecutors. Hence well-organised transnational conspiracies are often fought by ill-organised coalitions. Despite small-scale reforms, this problem has so far generated more talk than action. In 1993, the UK passed a law extending the territorial jurisdiction of our courts over a range of fraud offences; but it remains a dead letter because a succession of Home Secretaries have failed to bring it into force.

In 1995, the European Commission invited a group of experts to consider the problem and the Corpus Juris project is the fruit of its discussions. The group's first proposal is a single set of criminal offences of defrauding the EU budget, to apply throughout all member states. These would enable the criminal courts of any member state to try offenders,

no matter where in the EU the fraudulent acts had taken place. The second proposal is a common set of rules of procedure and evidence. These include standard rules about what evidence is admissible. For example, oral evidence would be admissible by live video link. There would be a common set of powers for evidence-gathering. There would also be a "European arrest warrant", valid throughout the EU.

The third proposal is a European prosecution service to investigate and prosecute the new offences. This would consist, in each state, of a public prosecutor seconded for a fixed period from his national prosecuting service, to work on Euro-fraud cases under a chief in Brussels. At the request of the European Parliament, the Corpus experts are now preparing a "feasibility study" and the Lords Select Committee on European Affairs is about to study the proposal.

The Corpus Juris project is clearly no proposal to replace British criminal justice with the juridical equivalent of the euro. Nor is it a secret plot — since it appeared in April 1997, strenuous efforts have been made to bring the Corpus to public attention. Nor, even within its limited compass, would it impose a "Napoleonic" system in conflict with Anglo-Saxon traditions. The authors of the Corpus tried to produce a synthesis of the best features of the rules of criminal procedure and evidence on both sides of the Channel. Among the many ideas borrowed from the common law tradition are the right of silence, the presumption of innocence and the rule that coercive measures for gathering evidence require the prior consent of a judge.

It is true that the Corpus recommends that the new offences of budgetary fraud should be tried by professional judges sitting without juries. But even this proposal originates on this side of the Channel. In the Roskill report on fraud trials in 1986.

Crime that crosses borders can only be fought effectively by agencies with powers to do the same. And this is true, whether the borders are English counties or police force areas, or those of a highly integrated Europe.

The author is a professor at Cambridge and a member of the team that drafted the Corpus Juris project.

There would be an arrest warrant valid in the EU

AVIATION & FINANCE COUNSEL

An experienced professional who will be responsible for providing and procuring legal advice relating to financing DHL's business and its principal assets, particularly dedicated aircraft.

Relevant responsibilities will include:

Aviation: • Legal aspects of acquiring aircraft including purchase/lease documentation, registration, de-registration of aircraft, wet lease, dry lease and charter arrangements; • Related aviation legal work e.g. ground handling contracts, engineering orders and initial advice on litigation matters; • Aviation insurance work, ensuring compliance of group aviation insurance programmes; • Administration: maintaining an accurate and up-to-date database for all DHL's dedicated aircraft.

General finance: • Internal and external loan finance documentation including term loan, revolving credit agreement, guarantees, letters of credit, swap agreements and intercompany loans - both for group holding companies and for specific subsidiaries; • Project finance work including the legal aspects of arranging finance and operating leases; • General legal advice relating to structuring acquisition or finance arrangements; • Procuring or interpreting relevant tax advice; • Legal interpretation and application of global insurance programmes.

Requirements: The ideal candidate will have: • Relevant knowledge and experience in the legal aspects of purchasing, leasing or chartering aircraft; • Strong legal skills in project finance areas; • Ability to obtain and interpret relevant tax advice; • Familiarity with general accounting principles; • A professional qualification and five years experience with an internationally recognised law firm, or as in-house counsel in an aviation or banking environment.

The job holder will be based in Brussels where he/she will report to the Group's General Counsel who, in turn, reports to the Group's Executive Chairman.

DHL
WORLDWIDE EXPRESS

Lord DIARY

LORD ACKNER, the retired law lord, is leading the onslaught on plans to remove the power of the judges over rights of audience in the legal profession. The Lord Chancellor's proposals are "unconstitutional" and "a breach of the separation of powers", thunders Lord Ackner. One of the Government's most ferocious critics in the House of Lords, he is revealing a new skill — master of the understatement. "Very occasionally," he told the Lords' debate on the Queen's Speech, "I have made mild, respectful and somewhat hesitant criticisms of the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary."

MARGARET McCABE, pioneer of equal opportunities at the Bar and founder of the Woman Lawyer Conference, has moved chambers to 1 Pump Court. The

chambers were winners of the *Last Times/Woman Lawyer* awards for their equal opportunities policies. McCabe, whose practice covers employment, family and commercial law, also advises Baroness Jay of Paddington's women's unit. She is delighted with her move. "They are totally modern in approach. And there is no discrimination whatever."

PETER CARTER-RUCK and Partners has become the first law firm to offer "no win, no fee" work for defamation cases. Legal aid is not available for libel so the scheme should help people to seek redress who were previously denied it.

THE Crown Prosecution Service is enjoying a honeymoon period following the appointment of David Calvert-Smith, QC, as Director of Public Prosecutions. But

stormclouds are gathering in the form of a turf war between the CPS and the police over one of the recommendations of Sir Iain Glidewell's report on the CPS. Sir Iain recommended the setting up of criminal justice units at police stations staffed by a mix of police and CPS personnel. Their job would be to prepare cases before suspects are charged. This role is in the hands of the police and, according to one CPS source, senior police officers have indicated that they want to keep it that way.

THE Lord Chancellor's charm offensive knows no bounds: he gave not one but two interviews last week. Nor is any subject off-limits, it seems: his guilt over the break-up of his first marriage for *The Sun*, the Woolf reforms for the *FT*.

WOMEN Against Rape is meeting in the House of Commons, Room 12, tonight to discuss Jack Straw's reforms. Details: 0171-482 2496.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

Stewart & Francis



PRACTICE

Reinsurance 4-5 yrs' pgs
Leading City practice requires reinsurance lawyer. General insurance exp. considered, but reinsurance desirable. Eventual partnership opportunity.
Ref: 37182 J. Ingle-Bells

Matrimonial 1-4 yrs' pgs
Interesting role for family solicitor to join expanding family department of exciting City firm. Opp. to develop an existing high-profile client base.
Ref: 42335 A. Wiseman

Solicitor/Advocate 2-4 yrs' pgs
Excellent opportunity for barrister/solicitor to join advocacy unit of a reputable City firm. Good academic record and commercial experience required.
Ref: 42351 A. Wiseman

INDUSTRY

Comp/Commercial 2-5 yrs' pgs
Multi-national seeks City-trained commercial lawyer with responsibility for EMEA, IT, IP, EC/Competition experience desirable.
Ref: 5344 E. Scrooge

Construction 4-6 yrs' pgs
Leading construction company requires senior lawyer to work on commercial matters and high-profile PFI projects. UK & international work.
Ref: 42560 Tim Insel

Prop/Construction 2-5 yrs' pgs
FTSE 100 company seeks a property and construction lawyer. Construction specialist also considered, although mixture of work preferred.
Ref: 2032 J. Ingle-Bells

PSD
Reuter Simkin
28 Essex Street
London WC2R 3AT
Telephone 0171 970 9725/6
Facsimile 0171 936 3978
E-mail law@psdgroup.com
Internet www.psdgroup.com

Europe Asia North America



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Winter Wonderland

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX
0171 782 7895



A team of individuals

Commercial Lawyers

Would you like to enjoy a relaxed lifestyle, combined with "City" quality work? Would you like to be based in a desirable offshore location, but just 45 minutes' flying time from London? If so, Mourant du Feu & Jeune can offer you a bright future in Jersey.

A world leader in offshore legal services, Mourant du Feu & Jeune is the pre-eminent Jersey law firm, with 16 partners and over 300 staff. Its status is proven by the quality and range of instructions it receives from global financial and commercial institutions in the fields of structured finance, securitisations, collective investment funds, employee benefits, corporate and trust law and banking.

As its expansion continues it is seeking commercial lawyers, ideally with at least 2 years' corporate or finance experience with a leading City or provincial firm. Its lawyers enjoy a high degree of individual responsibility, challenging instructions, salaries comparable with those of City lawyers (but with a personal tax rate of just 20%) and a quality lifestyle away from the stresses of urban life.

If you feel it's time for a change to a desirable and attractive location, call 2745 to enhance both your career and your life.



Mourant du Feu & Jeune

For further information in complete confidence, please contact our advisory consultant, Yvonne Smyth at 2745 on 0171 523 3030 Fax 0171 523 3039 (1172-40554) evenings or weekends. Alternatively write to her at 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. E-mail: yvonne.smyth@mourantdufeu.co.uk. Your CV should be sent on an exclusive basis. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.



Personnel from top left: Alan Birmingham-Partner, Ben Bollen-Senior Solicitor, Timothy Long-Partner, Queen Doris-Partner, Michael Pallas-Senior Solicitor, Max Scott-Partner, Edward Dwyer-Partner, Douglas Jones-Partner, Robert Lister-Partner, John Chapman-Junior Solicitor & Associates

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS STOP CITY++

This US firm has one of the leading project finance practices in the world. Its well-established London office is heavily involved in both the commercial and financing aspects of international projects and is a focal point for the firm's European dealings. Opportunities have now arisen for first-class corporate and finance lawyers, with 6-8 years' exp, to join this top tier practice. (Ref: 22171)

INSOLVENCY/BANKING LIT

This highly successful national firm, already a substantial player within the banking and financial services market, now seeks to strengthen its insolvency/banking litigation expertise with the addition of a commercially astute assistant with up to 5 years' exp. You should have solid experience of complex bank recovery litigation, and possess the management and marketing skills to make a success of this challenging role. (Ref: 24657)

NON-CONTENTIOUS IP

This innovative City firm is seeking imaginative IP lawyers, with 2-5 years' exp, to handle a predominantly non-contentious IP workload. Combining a youthful culture with a healthy dose of commercial pragmatism, this firm will offer you the opportunity to exercise your individual flair within this rapidly expanding team. Excellent career prospects, allied to a generous salary and benefits package, make this a position with a very bright future. (Ref: 25175)

FILM/TV

If you are seeking to work as an individual within a team, this exciting opportunity may be for you. This truly innovative City firm, with media lawyers with 0 to 5 years' exp, to join their market leading commercial media group. Focused and ambitious, you will be driven by the desire to be the best in the field and possess the requisite drive and ambition to achieve this goal. (Ref: 17826)

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

The highly regarded litigation department of this distinguished West End firm is now seeking a junior assistant, with 0-2 years' exp. The combination of a broad based commercial caseload and the firm's stated commitment to continuing professional and personal development, make this position a very attractive proposition for an able assistant wishing to fast track their career. (Ref: 25256)

BANKING

As part of the ongoing growth strategy, the thriving banking group of this dynamic City firm is currently seeking ambitious, commercially aware assistants at all levels. If you are seeking high quality work in a supportive team environment where your views count, no matter what your level of experience, this may be the position you have been waiting for. Excellent career prospects. (Ref: 22797)

CONSTRUCTION MIX

This premier magic circle firm is currently seeking to recruit construction lawyers with 1-5 years' exp, and sufficient ambition to make an immediate impact. Handling a dynamic caseload comprised of contentious and non-contentious matters, the successful candidates will share the firm's desire to be a market leader in this area and possess the requisite drive and determination to achieve this goal. (Ref: 25012)

EMPLOYMENT

A superb opportunity for an employment lawyer with 2-5 years' exp, to join this highly successful UK practice which continues to move from strength to strength. This position promises an interesting and diverse caseload, drawn from an enviable client portfolio. In addition to your skills as a lawyer, you will need the knowledge, confidence and flair to market, write and speak on the full range of employment issues. (Ref: 24063)

SLEEPING

This highly regarded niche practice firm seeks to recruit an ambitious assistant, with 1-5 years' exp, to complement its successful shipping and insurance department. With excellent experience of all aspects of dry work, you can expect a position which boasts excellent career prospects and a superb salary and benefits package. (Ref: 25129)

PROPERTY

Due to increasing work levels, this focused dynamic City firm is looking for two property assistants, one with 1 year's exp and one at HQ level. The successful candidates will join a thriving department where their values will be heard and their input valued. To top it all, you will handle a broad range of genuinely first rate work. (Ref: 21579)

For further information on private practice vacancies please contact Yvonne Smyth or Debbie Colbourne on 0171 523 3438 (01925 449564 evenings/weekends). Fax 0171 523 3439. E-mail: yvonne.smyth@mourantdufeu.co.uk. Alternatively please write to ZMB Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL.



London Manchester Sydney Toronto Vancouver Calgary

london/international appointments

london & brussels to £70,000

Top 10 City firm is interested in hearing from talented lawyers in the field who have between 3-6 years' experience. The London office has 3 partners and the highly rated Brussels office has 3 partners. The department offers advice on mergers and regulatory work in addition, telecoms, and media sectors. The firm also has strong links with a tier one construction firm. Contact: Shavella Jalegari.

city to £48,000

Firm opportunity for someone motivated to succeed three years' with good academic and sound relevant experience. Respected, progressive medium sized City firm has a need for an additional lawyer for this specialist group, a lively, friendly team with a broad range of international and UK residential and commercial dispute resolution, arbitration and litigation. Contact: Stephen Watkins.

city to £50,000

The award-winning practice has an opening for a firm of 40 years' experience in the City. The firm has specific division expertise and has a good academic track record. In return you will gain excellent regulatory advice experience in a state of the art environment. Contact: Tania Neeson.

city to £90,000

Leading national firm has two positions for lawyers to undertake project work (energy and ports). Approximately 70% of the work is offshore. You will have corporate and/or banking experience together with cross border experience. In return, you will gain good quality work, plenty of responsibility and a high level of exposure to international clients. Contact: Shavella Jalegari.

to partnership

Back to a big law with no prospect of partnership? Respected by the stratagem culture of your current firm? Why not leave now? First rate firm, now a highly respected medium sized firm in central London. Phenomenal opportunity to carve out your own name and build a team for the foreseeable and long-term construction lawyer. Contact: Tania Neeson.

city to £75,000

Continued expansion of this very successful PFI group in a City firm with a leading reputation for project and property finance requires a further senior assistant. Ideally 4-6 years' qualified and with experience of project finance. High level of responsibility helping build the business of this dedicated team of 7 headed by 4 partners, doing the full range of PFI work. Commensurate candidates welcome. Contact: Andrew Howe Brown.

city Excellent to £70,000

15 firm with a strong global presence has an opportunity for an English qualified commercial property partner for both land and sea, and commercial and non-commercial IP. You will currently be working for a City firm which has a strong reputation in the field. The London office is staffed by star partners and approximately fifty lawyers and is committed to building further. Contact: Shavella Jalegari.

us firm to £70,000

New position with established City office of worldwide US firm. A senior practitioner of proven ability is sought to spearhead the provision of employment law services. Non-contentious work includes lectures to clients and consideration/improvement of in-house manuals. Candidates will involve defending both contractual and IT claims. Excellent prospects. Contact: Stephen Watkins.

expatriate package

The English City firm is expanding its office in Beijing. Applicants should have first class commercial law experience with 3 years' exp and speak fluent Mandarin. Specific experience in the areas of corporate finance, company commercial, joint ventures, IP, trade finance, and general commercial law as required. The firm is looking for a small office, currently staffed by 3 lawyers. Support from Hong Kong office. Contact: Andrew Howe Brown.

Hays Richard Owen

hays richard owen, hays richard owen, 165 Haysway, London, EC2M 2PL. 0171 630 2348 Fax 0171 631 2336. e-mail: hro@haysrichardowen.co.uk



CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

LONDON AREA

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

CROWN PROSECUTORS (LEVEL C PAYBAND C1 AND C2)

C1 salary - £19,856 rising to £23,690 per annum
C2 salary - £24,000 rising to £44,468 per annum

(posts also attract a Recruitment and Retention Allowance of £736 - £1,776 per annum depending on location)

The Crown Prosecution Service is the Government Department responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases in Magistrates' and Crown Courts in England and Wales.

We are seeking to recruit lawyers to fill a number of Crown Prosecution Service vacancies in branches throughout London on a permanent basis. Candidates who are approved by the selection panel for a current vacancy will be placed on a waiting list and may be offered future appointments on a permanent basis as additional vacancies arise. Both full and part time posts are available and a flexible working hours scheme is in position. Limited assistance is also available in respect of childcare costs.

As a Crown Prosecutor you will review and, where appropriate, prosecute criminal cases. You will also advise the police on matters relating to criminal cases. In each case you review, you will consider whether there is sufficient evidence and, if there is, whether the public interest requires a prosecution.

Applicants will need excellent advocacy and organisational skills, together with the ability to work effectively within a team. Sound judgement and the capacity to work under pressure are essential.

Applicants will require at least 2 years post qualification experience in criminal law for Level C2 posts. This together with the individual's knowledge and skill levels will determine whether they are considered for appointment to Level C1 or C2.

For further information and an application form please send a postcard with your name and address to: Recruitment Section, CPS London, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5RH.

Completed applications must be received by 9 January 1993

The Crown Prosecution Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified/eligible people regardless of sex, race and disability.
Crown Prosecution Service • Working in the interests of Justice



HAPPY NEW YEAR?

CORPORATE To £55,000

This leading City firm undertakes a broad range of international corporate law work for large national and multi-national companies. Applicants should have had exposure to complex corporate transactions and experience of assisting with large international end/or cross-border deals. Experience as an international law firm and foreign language skills would be a strong advantage. Ref: T81197

FINANCE To £55,000

Exciting futures beckon for young, enthusiastic and ambitious lawyers with 0-2 years' exp in any area of finance, capital markets or project finance at the London office of this major US firm, whose rapid growth and top salaries accurately reflect the practice's impressive success and clients. Ref: T23816

LITIGATION KNOW-HOW To £48,000

While you will no longer have to worry about time sheets, the opportunity to be the first litigation support lawyer at this major US firm, which boasts one of the best litigation practices in the City, is not a step down for an experienced lawyer. You will be paid well whether you work full or part time. Ref: T81188

ARBITRATION To £30,000

Arbitration is very much the practice area of the future, and commercial lawyers with 2-7 years' exp and perhaps arbitration experience will be given a grandstand view of its growth at the London office of this major US firm, which has one of the best arbitration practices in the City. Ref: T19444

CORPORATE To £55,000

What this well-known niche City firm lacks in size, it more than makes up for with the quality of its clients and working environment, which is one of the most progressive around. Corporate lawyers with 1-5 years' exp who are keen to gain superb client exposure need look no further. Ref: T23348

EC/COMPETITION Brussels/London To £50,000

Whether you choose to work at this top 5 City firm's London or Brussels office, you will be working in one of the top EC/competition practices around, backed up by a top-notch training and development programme. This is a recognised route to the top for lawyers with 1-7 years' exp. Ref: T25479

FINANCE - PARIS To £55,000

This top 10 firm's Paris office is looking for a solicitor with 2-4 years' exp to work on transactional matters. Relevant experience must include drafting loan and security documentation in any one or more of the following areas: syndicated loans, corporate (acquisition) finance, asset finance (lease and lease) and project finance. A good standard of spoken French is also required. Ref: T34134

INSOLVENCY To £130,000

Join one of the most vibrant practices in the City and see your career go through the roof if you are an insolvency lawyer with 0-7 years' exp who can show good non-contentious experience (no pure litigation). You can really go places, quickly, at the London office of this top US firm. Ref: T83822

CORPORATE To £50,000

Fancy a City firm renowned for the transactional experience and high levels of client contact to lawyers enjoy? If you are an ambitious corporate lawyer with 1-6 years' exp who thrives on M&A, MBO and equity funding matters, you will get your full reward at this major second-tier practice. Ref: T19782

ACQUISITION FINANCE To £60,000

The pay and prospects are an added bonus, but what any banking lawyer really wants is high-quality work and recognition that you are not just a drone. This top 5 City firm offers that and more if you have 0-4 years' exp and experience of or enthusiasm for acquisition finance matters. Ref: T60386

REGULATORY/FINANCIAL SERVICES To £100,000

This very high-profile firm has banking and fraud practices crying out for exploration by a regulatory/financial services expert with 3+ years' exp up to senior level from another firm, a regulatory body or a bank. Take on this leading challenge and you will reap the considerable rewards. Ref: T81062

PFI/PROJECTS To £70,000

Size is by no means everything in the PFI sector, a fact admirably illustrated by this City firm, one of the leading niche practices in the field. A lawyer with 3-5 years' exp, you will soon make a name for yourself at a firm especially renowned for M&S/health and central government work. Ref: T18272

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact:

Shavella Jalegari or
Stephen Howe (all qualified lawyers) on
0171 400 6002 0171 355 7017 or
0171 400 4002 e-mail: hro@haysrichardowen.co.uk
write to them at CPS Legal.

GD Legal

37-41 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4JH

Tel: 0171 405 6082

Confidential fax: 0171 831 8364

Web: www.gdgroup.com

London

Birmingham
Leeds
Manchester
Hong Kong
Paris

New York

Sydney
Melbourne
The Netherlands
Toronto
Vancouver



LOVELL WHITE DURRANT

An alternative legal career in capital markets.

London based

Lovell White Durrant is one of the largest international law firms with real strength in depth across a range of specialist practice areas.

We have a committed team of highly valued professional support lawyers who work in each practice area and place great importance on their key contribution to our business. We are seeking a lawyer to work with and support our capital markets practice.

You should have a minimum of two years' exp in capital markets gained in private practice and/or investment banking and believe as strongly as we do in the importance of know-how support. In return, we can provide the opportunity to continue to develop your expertise and to work alongside highly motivated lawyers recognised by Legal Business as Capital Markets Team of the Year.

If you have the imagination and commitment to provide a technically strong service in a driving area of the firm's practice, we can offer a rewarding and stimulating career alternative in a firm recognised by The Lawyer for its technical innovation.

For further information, contact David Woolfson at Chambers Professional Recruitment on 0171 606 8844. CVs can also be sent via e-mail to David.Woolfson@chambersrecruitment.co.uk. Alternatively please write enclosing a CV to Mrs Lynda Neal, Senior Personnel Manager, Lovell White Durrant, 65 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 9HL.

Beijing Brussels Chicago Ho Chi Minh City Hong Kong London Moscow New York Paris Prague Singapore Tokyo

Meeting children halfway

Contact centres help families and save money, says Grania Landon-Down

Amid was being given a chance to know his father. His bitterly divided parents had been referred to the Coram Meeting Place in London, one of the few contact centres where independent social workers supervise visits.

On seven months, Amid went 15 times, curious but ambivalent about his father. But the last visit, observed by a court welfare officer, father and son seemed relaxed as they played a board game.

After 100 hours' work with the sole family by the centre, it is still too early to say how their relationship will develop — but both parents now accept that contact should continue.

Aid's family is just one of more than 80 helped in the past year by the Meeting Place which comes under the aegis of the Thomas Coram Foundation, a children's charity. About half involve couples whose relationships have broken down irretrievably, often amid accusations of abuse, and access is possible only under a supervised contact order. The other half are families whose children have been taken into care.

The project manager, Margaret Briant, two full-time project workers, sessional workers and volunteers supervise more than 600 visits a year at the Meeting Place — self-contained flat made as much as possible with a garden, covered play area, anisiting room full of toys and games. Locked doors separate it from the rest of the building, which provides a full and family room for supervised contact visits. There are 250 centres registered with the National Association of Child Contact Centres which last week held a



Margaret Briant at the Coram Meeting Place in London: "What started as a trickle of cases became a flood — about half involve private law work"

conference on bridging family break-up.

Staff help more than 70 children a month. Their days are varied — they might assess a new family or counsel a parent after a difficult visit with a child. A mother whose baby has been taken into care at birth might come four times a week to be supervised with her child if the local authority hopes to keep them together. In private law cases, children come for two hours a fortnight over six months to see if their relationship with the absent parent can move to more informal arrangements.

"What you see is children in pain. Only being able to see your child under supervision must be everybody's nightmare, so it is very rewarding when we see relationships improving and the children's misery easing," Ms Briant says.

Mr Justice Cazalet, who sits in the High Court Family Division, praises the project as a "flagship". "If it didn't survive," he says, "it would be a loss to the whole system of family mediation. It provides a bridge between warring parents and their children and stops the children becoming emotional

footballs by helping families to establish more stable and tolerant relationships. The law alone can be too blunt an instrument to resolve such problems."

The future of the Meeting Place is uncertain because there is no permanent funding. Funding problems go back to the centre's inauguration ten years ago. It began as a neutral venue with a caretaker handling books, where social workers could supervise meetings. But in less than a year, a qualified social worker was appointed as project leader with a team of volunteers to supervise

meetings. The centre's reputation grew. Before long, a High Court judge rang to say he had a case where the children's parents could not resolve the issue of access. Could the centre take on supervised contact?

Ms Briant says: "What started as a trickle of cases became a flood. About half our cases now involve private law work, but we have no funding for it."

Preparations for a contact visit are intricate. The resident parent and child wait in one building, while the absent parent goes straight to the centre. After the meeting, that parent must wait 20 minutes after the child has gone. Dr Brynna Kroll, a lecturer in applied social studies at Brunel University, who acts as project consultant and is developing a training programme for centre workers, says: "Family breakdowns cost millions. The Meeting Place is a unique resource."

Coram Meeting Place, Gregory House, 48 Mecklenburgh Square, London WC1N 2NU. It can take referrals only from local authority social workers and court welfare officers.

Human rights have a long way to grow

As a revolutionary document turns 50, Ralph Wilde calls for an overhaul

Human rights are very much the language of our times — from the prosecution of General Pinochet to the Government's attempt at a human rights-based foreign policy. Thursday marks the 50th anniversary of the document which founded the modern human rights movement, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Declaration came out of revision for the atrocities of the Second World War. It was revolutionary, taking the notion of rights from the national constitutions of the West and articulating it on the international level, as applicable to all. Through force of personality, Eleanor Roosevelt pushed it through the United Nations despite Cold War tensions.

Its 30 articles set out simply what were considered to be the most fundamental needs that all people share. They cover civil and political rights, like freedom of expression; and economic, social and cultural rights, like the right to education. In articulating this diversity of rights as interdependent, it tried to cover all the needs that are emphasised differently throughout the world and prevail regardless of changes in circumstances. This vital starting point then required fleshing out in subsequent treaties.

Unfortunately, during the Cold War, human rights were appropriated as a tool of East-West confrontation. The Soviet Union insisted on the primacy of economic, social and cultural rights. The West considered civil and political rights to be more important, creating the European Convention on Human

Rights as a beacon of "democratic values" against communism.

In the words of Lord Lester of Herne Hill, civil and political rights are now developed through a "transnational public law process" — national, regional and international institutions developing a common, cross-fertilised rights jurisprudence.

However, as the human rights agenda expands in scope, its inadequacies become more pronounced. Refugee law — set up to help individuals persecuted in Europe — struggles with refugee movements on a global scale caused by mass violations of rights. Most refugees flee to developing countries, which lack the means to help them. Western states no longer have a strong cultural commitment to assist refugees.

The Pinochet decision opens up the possibility for more individual criminal trials despite inaction by states where violations take place, but this will occur in a piecemeal fashion, and in countries unconnected to the violations. It remains to be seen if the International Criminal Court will create a more appropriate forum to perform this role.

The anniversary is a salutary reminder that, despite the Holocaust, it took 50 years for the Declaration to begin to realise its potential. The challenge for the next half-century is to enhance the relevance and legitimacy of human rights as a means of articulating individuals' needs, through the constant revision of law and its implementation.

The author is a barrister engaged in international law research.

Pinochet decision may lead to more criminal trials

Legal Adviser

Potters Bar, Herts
Competitive plus Benefits

Canada Life is a leading international insurance company. Established 95 years ago in the UK, it provides a wide range of financial services and products. As a recent acquirer of several major businesses, Canada Life has grown into a top 20 UK player and has a multi-distribution operation with over £6 billion of funds under management. Our in-house legal team, based in our Head Office in Potters Bar, provides legal advice to meet the business needs on a broad range of issues.

As a solicitor or barrister, you will have a minimum of three to four years' post-qualification experience, gained with a major insurance company or financial services business or, possibly, in private practice. Ideally, you will have an understanding of, and familiarity with, life assurance products, trusts and pensions, IT and regulation relating to the financial services sector. Reporting to our Executive Director, Legal and Company Secretary, you will advise colleagues and departments on legal issues, as well as approving marketing literature and providing support for product development and administration.

Your strong technical skills will be combined with a real commercial focus and excellent communication ability. Self-motivated and practical, you will be a team player committed to the highest professional standards. Training will be provided to ensure on-going achievement of technical skills and personal development.

In return for your commitment and experience, we offer a highly competitive salary, bonus and comprehensive benefits package. Relocation assistance may be included for the right candidate.

Please write in confidence, with full career and salary details, to: Mrs Sally Scott, Human Resources, The Canada Life Assurance Company, Canada Life Place, High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA.

Also advertised on www.career-mosaic-uk.co.uk

Canada Life

Banking & finance lawyers

European investment bank
senior tax expert

Our client is a highly respected financial institution, topped in the City as 'one to watch', has an acknowledged reputation for its calm and mature professional approach.

The Tax Department is expanding as a result of significant activity within investment banking. A senior tax expert has been identified for an additional member to be appointed at a senior level. Ideally candidates will have a minimum of 5 years' post qualification experience in a broad range of UK and international corporate tax matters including tax based structured finance. As well as being technically excellent, applicants must be able to effectively communicate with a range of seniority within the bank. Remuneration is unmatched.

Investment managers
Quasi-legal role

Our client is a leading player in the UK's private investment management arena. It offers a tailored service designed to meet specific needs of individual investors.

A need has been identified for a junior lawyer (0-2 years' post qualification experience) to join the sales and marketing team in a pivotal role. This is an ideal opportunity for candidates who feel that they have gained useful skills in their legal careers, but could better use them elsewhere. Relevant abilities would include presentation, organisational, sales and private client skills. Whilst the successful candidate would initially play a supporting role, there is huge potential to develop his/her own client base.

Global investment bank
Corporate finance lawyer

This major global investment bank is renowned as being at the vanguard of innovative financing structures.

The transaction management department which is highly regarded both internally and externally provides transactional and legal services to the front office business areas. The corporate finance section seeks additional lawyers with a minimum of 2 years' post qualification experience and listings, preferably with a fluency in French and/or German. This unique opportunity is multidisciplinary in nature and will encompass the origination, structuring and execution of deals. Naturally, commercial flair is paramount. Rewards, both professional and financial will be outstanding.

23 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL
0171 606 8844 Fax: 600 1793
banking@chambersrecruitment.co.uk

CHAMBERS

We recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. Please contact Deborah Kirkman or Stuart Morton.

PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

£34,500 PER ANNUM

Luton is a unitary authority offering a challenging and stimulating environment for an enthusiastic solicitor with local government and managerial experience.

This is a new post for someone with good motivational skills to head up our litigation team.

Reporting to the Solicitor to the Council, you will be responsible for developing a client focused service in a range of legal services, including litigation and contractual work. You will also be personally responsible for advising on the strategic aspects of Education Law. Committee attendance will be required.

Experience of advising local authority members and officers on complex education legal issues is essential as is experience of litigation and advocacy.

Experience of managing professional staff is essential. You must be qualified to practise in England as either a solicitor or barrister.

A full relocation package is available where appropriate.

Luton is a thriving regional centre with excellent local shopping facilities and a varied programme of cultural, social and sporting opportunities. Luton has good road and rail connections as well as an international airport, while the surrounding countryside, including the Chilterns, is only a few minutes drive away.

For further details and to discuss the role informally please call Richard Stevens, Solicitor to the Council, on (01582) 546020.

For further details contact the Human Resource Division, Apex House, 30 - 34 Upper George Street, Luton, LU1 2RD. Telephone (01582) 546621 or Answerphone (01582) 738307, quoting Ref. CLS949.

Closing date: 18.12.98.

LUTON
WHERE EQUALITY MATTERS

We operate a guaranteed interview scheme - candidates with a disability, who are judged to meet the essential criteria, will be guaranteed an interview.

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

AX:
0171 782 399

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

Oxfordshire

£Excellent

Our client is an organisation engaged in conducting major long-term research projects and in providing specialist advice and consultancy services. The Company is regarded as a leading authority in its field. There is now a need to recruit a Junior Lawyer to assist the Head of Legal/Company Secretary to provide a comprehensive service and contribute to several key aspects of work undertaken by small teams of specialists.

The successful candidate will assume responsibility for a number of issues ranging from commercial contracts, intellectual property and the legal aspects of environmental management through to company secretarial matters, property issues and the management of external consultants.

By working closely with the head of department to deliver creative legal solutions and to provide advice on domestic and European legislation, regulatory frameworks and government policy, the successful candidate will have a key role in providing a wide-ranging and decisive legal service.

With at least one year's ppe, applicants should be able to demonstrate broad

academic legal knowledge and practical commercial experience with an interest in environmental law and a lateral approach to problem solving. A confident, credible communicator; they will be expected to undertake foreign travel when necessary. In return our client offers an outstanding opportunity to develop a broad range of professional skills in a uniquely challenging environment.

In the first instance, please contact, in complete confidence, Sarah McGinty or David Bennett on 0121 643 1895 (evenings and weekends 07970 430398).

Alternatively, please send a full CV, including the details of your current remuneration, to them at HW In-House Legal, Grosvenor House, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5RS. Fax: 0121 633 0862; e-mail: sarah.mcgintry@hwgroup.com; internet: www.hwgroup.com

HW IN-HOUSE LEGAL



BIRMINGHAM • EDINBURGH • LEEDS • LONDON • MANCHESTER



DEPUTY COMPANY SECRETARY

North West

Excellent Package

Littlewoods

Whether you know us through our Littlewoods or Index stores, catalogues or Pools business, you will know Littlewoods as a highly successful and long established company. However, what you may not know is that we are going through a period of considerable change. And we are ambitious - our vision is to become the UK's most admired consumer business. We are now looking for an ambitious and experienced individual to share this future with us.

As a key member of a small team, reporting to the Group Company Secretary/Legal Director, you will assume personal responsibility for the day to day management of Company Secretarial activities. Your role will encompass a wide range of Company Secretarial tasks involving extensive liaison with shareholders, board of directors and executive management.

You will be fully conversant with Companies' legislation and capable of providing commercial legal advice in other areas of key importance to the Group.

A Solicitor or Chartered Secretary with at least three years' post-qualification experience, ideally in a public company, you will be an accomplished communicator and have the talent and credibility to operate effectively at the very highest level.

In return for your commitment and contribution, we offer the reward, benefits and prospects you would expect of a leading retail and leisure group.

In the first instance, please contact, in complete confidence, our retained consultant Jacqueline Wood on 0161 819 5204. Alternatively, please send a full CV, including the details of your current remuneration, to us at HW In-House Legal, Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Park Lane, Leeds LS3 1AB. Fax: 0113 245 637; e-mail: jacqui.wood@hwgroup.com; internet: www.hwgroup.com

HW IN-HOUSE LEGAL



BIRMINGHAM • EDINBURGH • LEEDS • LONDON • MANCHESTER



UK & OVERSEAS IN-HOUSE & PRACTICE

German Qualified General Counsel
Central, Eastern Europe, Russia & The CIS
This is one of the most sought after and high profile in-house positions in Germany which involves managing a team of around 20 in-house counsel with one of the world's best known multinationals. The role, based in Southern Germany, requires a German lawyer with at least 12 years experience in corporate and commercial law and people management experience gained in-house. Please contact Naveen Tuli. Ref: 3298

Information Technology Lawyer
Herts
This is an exciting new opportunity for an IT lawyer with systems integration experience to work for a well known computer multinational. You will have a good grounding in general commercial and IT contracts. Contact Alexes Diggins. Ref: 3778

Information Technology/IP/Commercial
Herts
An exciting new role has arisen for a 2-5 year qualified lawyer to join this high profile organisation and handle IT/IP and general company/commercial work. Please contact Shona McDougall on Tel: 01223 516001 Fax: 01223 516002. Ref: 3831

Senior Listing Executive/Cayman Islands
to \$80,000 per year + benefits
This organisation currently seeks a lawyer with between 2 and 4 years experience in any of: investment fund; structured finance; or Stock Exchange matters. The work will be interesting and varied and will include some training of junior staff members as well as marketing. This is an exciting opportunity to work in-house in this tropical location. Contact Jane Foster. Ref: 3887

Commercial Contracts
London
Listed on NASDAQ, our client is a leading provider of financial software solutions and services to the institutional asset management community worldwide. It is seeking its first UK based lawyer. If you are a commercial and business orientated lawyer, 2 to 5 years qualified, with a strong commercial/contracts background, please contact Rachael North. Ref: 3786

Private International Bank - London
Private Client, Tax & Trusts - £90,000 + bonus
This leading private international bank seeks a private client lawyer with 5+ years' experience of estate structuring, tax planning & asset protection structures gained with a similar institution or a leading name practice in this area. You will be pragmatic in your approach and relish the prospect of working in a dynamic commercial environment with daily client contact. Contact Jane Foster. Ref: 3778

Projects Lawyers
London, EC4
This is a wonderful opportunity for a newly to 3 year qualified lawyer to get into projects work with this 70 partner City firm. Whilst the position involves top quality domestic projects which would interest solicitors who already have projects experience, our client is also interested in lawyers with backgrounds in property, construction, banking, in-house or local government. Please contact Andre Field. Ref: 3818

Insolvency 1-7 Years Qualified
£40-60,000
The London office of this US firm is seeking exceptional UK qualified non-contentious insolvency lawyers at all levels to join the young, non-hierarchical and related team. Please telephone James Yates in complete confidence for more information. Ref: 3786

Employment Lawyer - Covent Garden
£ Top City
A superb opportunity for employment specialists, 2-3 years qualified, to join this leading media firm. The role will involve both contentious and non contentious work and will include acting for media clients, advertising agencies, City institutions and brokers, software companies high profile individuals and senior executives. Contact Odean Arni. Ref: 467

Company/Commercial
to £60,000 Bp Brussels
This leading international law firm has an opportunity for a Belgian qualified lawyer with 5-8 years high quality corporate and commercial experience. Contact Laurence Simons personally or James Yates. Ref: 3786



LAURENCE SIMONS
International Legal Recruitment

Craven House, 121 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PA. Tel +44 (0)171 831 3270, Fax +44 (0)171 831 4429
Evenings (after 7pm)/Weekends Tel: +44 (0)181 203 9080 (In-house) or +44 (0)181 977 3446 (Practice)

E-mail: laurence@laurencsimons.demon.co.uk

Sole Lawyer - City

8-10PQE

Our client is a major company within the insurance sector, based in the City. Due to an increase in the volume of business, our client seeks to appoint a lawyer to handle both legal and compliance work.

The successful candidate will advise on a varied and stimulating workload including contractual and corporate matters. The role will also include compliance responsibility in relation to both external regulation and internal standards.

The ideal candidate will have broad commercial experience gained either within a leading law firm or an in-house legal department. He/she will have an understanding of regulatory matters and a good knowledge of the insurance market.

The role calls for a highly effective communicator with exceptional oral and written skills. The ability to work within a team environment is essential.

Rewards in terms of remuneration and career development will reflect the challenging nature of this appointment.



If you wish to find out more about this position, please call Lucy Boyd, Director for a confidential discussion

LIPSON LLOYD JONES
LEGAL RECRUITMENT

127 Cheapside
London EC2V 6BT
Tel: 0171 600 1690
Fax: 0171 600 1772
info@lipsonlloyd-jones.co.uk
www.lipsonlloyd-jones.co.uk

PRIVATE CLIENT PARTNER



EJ • LEGAL
STRATEGIC RECRUITMENT ADVISORS

£80,000+

... In a firm committed to its private client department.

Few firms have such an outstanding reputation for their private client departments as this cohesive and happy medium-sized partnership. Moreover, unlike the increasing number of firms driven by corporate deals, this practice really values its private client team and genuinely believes in its further development. The department now seeks a rising star who can become a key player as a partner retires from this substantial group leaving a healthy client base. If you too are enthusiastic about the future of private client work and would like to be part of an energetic team please call in complete confidence

SARAH KING AT EJ. LEGAL, 44-45 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2A 1JB.
TEL 0171 404 6669, FAX 0171 404 8817, PM&WE 0171 404 2039.

HITACHI

Based Maidenhead

The Hitachi Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of industrial, electronic and consumer products.

Hitachi Europe Ltd, whose major activities are the sales and distribution of electronic components, information technology products, power machinery and industrial equipment, is now seeking a solicitor to join the Legal Department in its European Headquarters based in Maidenhead. Reporting to the General Manager - Legal Services you will be expected to provide broad ranging advice to the company's UK and other European operations and in particular will be responsible for the negotiation, review and drafting of a whole range of commercial contracts and licenses and for the legal implications of all major business decisions, company litigation and other corporate matters.

Candidates should have between three and five years' experience gained in either private practice or industry. Some exposure to high technology work would be an advantage. They should also have a practical business orientation, well-developed interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels of management.

Hitachi Europe Ltd offers a competitive salary and benefits package for this position.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a CV and quoting current salary details to Tony Tolan, General Manager, Legal Services, Hitachi Europe Ltd, Whitebrook Park, Lower Cookham Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 8YA. Telephone (01628) 585232. Fax (01628) 585380.

Treasury Lawyer

Woolwich Treasury Services

Competitive Salary and Benefits Package - South London

Woolwich plc's current success has been built on first class financial products, an excellent corporate strategy and bright, committed people. We now need a lawyer to set up and manage an "in-house" legal support function within Woolwich Treasury Services.

The role will involve providing "hands on" input and direction to the Woolwich Treasury Services business plan via the development and implementation of complementary legal and compliance policies and procedures in addition to upgrading the existing compliance function within Woolwich Treasury Services.

Responsibility will also be undertaken for the documentation associated with swaps, foreign exchange, FRAs, repos and gilt stock lending, MTNs and similar transactions.

To be considered for this new and multi-faceted role, you will be a self-starter with a high level of personal motivation and confidence, coupled with superb interpersonal and networking skills and a wide strategic perspective. You will also be a solicitor or barrister and have had a minimum of 2 years PQE within both a major City practice and a London-based Treasury department. Previous compliance experience within a major financial institution will be an advantage. If you are interested in this new challenge, please send your full CV including details of your current remuneration, to Nick Garrett, Human Resources Manager, Woolwich plc, Watling Street, Beresford, Kent DA6 7HR.

Closing date: 18 December 1998.

Get much more with the
WOOLWICH

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:
0171 782 7899

Commercial Sports Lawyer 2-4 years' ppe

The business of sport is booming and our Client has a leading reputation in this dynamic area of practice.

Providing innovative legal and commercial solutions to an exciting list of clients, ranging from international federations and governing bodies, event organisers and broadcasters to individual sportsmen and women, our Client's Sports Group is clearly a front runner in the sports law field.

The Group is now seeking a specialist commercial sports lawyer with 2-4 years' ppe to come on board. Alternatively, you will have 2-4 years' solid experience of general commercial/soft IP matters and a genuine interest in sports and the sports industries. Either way, you will be a confident team player, with entrepreneurial drive and a flair for business development.

For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultant Debbie Cochran on 0171 525 3838 (evening/weekends 0181 574 8455) or write to her at ZMB, 57 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. Confidential fax 0171 525 3839. E-mail debbie.cochran@zmbgroup.com

ZMB
ZAKAR MACALUS BURNETT
THE ZAKAR GROUP

London Manchester Sydney Toronto Vancouver Calgary

www.zmb.co.uk

ARNOLD & PORTER

Project Finance Lawyers

London

£Outstanding

Arnold & Porter is one of the US's largest international law firms. Headquartered in Washington DC it has offices in New York, Los Angeles, Denver and London, with a representative office in Istanbul.

The London office, established in the early 1990's, is now a focal point of the firm's future and is undergoing considerable expansion. As part of this continuing growth the firm is seeking to add high calibre project finance lawyers with, ideally, 1-8 years' ppe, to its prestigious Project Finance Group.

The Group is a leading player in the international project finance market with expertise in all areas of project finance, Public Finance Initiative and Public/Private Partnerships.

You can expect the very best work; high levels of responsibility and international travel. You will join a team of driven and dynamic experts forming part of a collegiate and successful firm that rewards better than most.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact:
Seamus Healy or William Cook on
0171 405 6082 (0171 405 5727
evening/weekends) or write to
them at QD Legal
email: seamus@qdgroup.co.uk
william@qdgroup.co.uk

QD Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London
WC1R 4EH
Tel: 0171 405 6082
Confidential fax: 0171 631 6394
Web: www.qdgroup.com

London Sydney
Birmingham Melbourne
Leeds Manchester The Netherlands
Hong Kong Toronto
Paris Vancouver

IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE?

COMMERCIAL/PROPERTY

Major service provider requires lawyers 2-3 years' ppe to work on a contract basis for 6-12 months. Commercial lawyers will be dealing with due diligence and general commercial work including drafting and reviewing contracts. Property lawyers to have general commercial property experience. Ref: T80844

ENERGY/PROJECTS

Top City firm seeks solicitor 2-5 years' qualified solicitor with experience of energy work to particular oil and gas, electricity and power generation. Must be a confident drafter to work on an independent basis. To assist with burgeoning workload. Ref: T80794

COMPLIANCE

Finance house needs lawyer with a minimum of 3 years' experience within a SRA regulated compliance function. Will consider full or part-time. 6 month contract to start immediately. Ref: T80888

EMPLOYMENT

Commercial firm requires employment solicitor for a 6 month contract. Experience of both contentious and non-contentious employment matters. 1-5 years' ppe to start as soon as possible to assist with heavy workload. Ref: T80848

PENSIONS KNOW-HOW

Major international law firm needs pensions solicitor/barrister to perform support role for 6 month maternity leave. Must have 5-10 years' ppe to deal with employee benefits and pensions work. To start February. Ref: T80848

COMMERCIAL

Engineering company based in Home Counties seeks senior commercial lawyer for heavyweights role. Must have excellent contractual experience including robust negotiation and drafting skills. Public sector experience useful but not essential. 6-8 years' ppe to start immediately for 3-6 months. Ref: T80888

COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

Major engineering company seeks a 2-5 years' qualified solicitor/barrister for office in Wiltshire. Candidates must have experience of large scale contracts as well as a strong personality and the ability to work on an unsupervised basis. 6 month contract to start as soon as possible. Ref: T81811

EC COMPETITION

City practice seeks solicitor/barrister for 3-6 month contract. Will be dealing with competition issues arising from major corporate transactions. Regulatory experience essential. To start immediately whilst continue permanent search. Ref: T80757

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Small London practice needs solicitor with 2-4 years' ppe to assist with primarily company work as well as some employment matters. 3 month contract whilst recruiting permanently. Ref: T80778

PR/CONSTRUCTION

Leading corporate and commercial City practice seeks 3-6 years' qualified solicitor/barrister for 3 month contract. To assist with PR matters within the construction department. Immediate start. Ref: T80888

BANKING

Banking solicitor required for this City firm. 2-3 years' ppe to undertake a mixture of banking and corporate finance work. Will be dealing with acquisition finance rather than asset or project finance work. 3-6 month contract. Immediate start. Ref: T81815

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING

Notional office of building society requires a team of four solicitors/legal executives to assist with a large commercial conveyancing service. Immediate start for 6 month contract. Ref: T81176

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Seamus Healy or William Cook on 0171 405 6082 (0171 405 5727 evening/weekends) or write to us at QD Legal Project Lawyer.
email: seamus@qdgroup.co.uk
william@qdgroup.co.uk

QD Special Project Lawyer
37-41 Bedford Row
London
WC1R 4EH

Tel: 0171 405 6082
Confidential fax: 0171 631 6394
Web: www.qdgroup.com

London Sydney
Birmingham Melbourne
Leeds Manchester The Netherlands
Hong Kong Toronto
Paris Vancouver

QD

Industry & private practice

Banking and

You're about to start a new job when you suddenly get an offer for a position which you prefer. Would you be frank and open with him? This is clearly the right answer, but candidates are often confused.

We recently learned - partly by chance - that a candidate who was due to start his new job next week had accepted an alternative offer. When we passed on this information to the employers who were expecting him, they expressed some forthright views on his behaviour. Any candidate in this position faces a dilemma. They'll not be happy if they turn down the new offer, but they'll look bad if they accept it. Not only will the rejected employers feel sore, the new employers will take a dim view of it.

Not telling, however, is no solution. The truth is likely to come out eventually. Unless handled carefully, the rejected employers will be so angry they may sue. At the very least, they'll write an angry letter of complaint.

Michael Chambers

Our directory is available in £45 from 0171 606 8844
Tel: 0171 606 8844
Fax: 0171 606 1793
e-mail: info@chambersrecruitment.co.uk

Industry

First in-house lawyer

Solicitor/barrister 2-4 years' ppe for successful IT company. Worked includes commercial contracts, some property and employment. Knowledge of IT law helpful but not essential.

Legal/co sec

International leisure company seeks solicitor min 3 years' ppe to handle commercial contracts, litigation, joint ventures, M&A and employment and company secretarial work.

Commercial and property

Major player in the property sector seeks lawyer min 2 yrs' ppe to handle a mixed caseload of company/commercial and property work, including development projects.

London & Overseas

Partnership Positions

We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for 25 years and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Head of employment

Niche technology practice seeks 4-7 yr qual sol for non-cont based caseload. Exceptional opp for ambitious and motivated sol looking for an unsully entrepreneurial firm.

Project finance

Leading US firm offers top quality work and New York salaries to solicitors at several levels (1-6 years' ppe) for its new London-based project finance practice.

US company/commercial partner

Small London office of highly-regarded medium-sized American firm seeks senior US attorney to act for US clients operating in Europe. Broad corporate caseload.

Some Reiner, Marianne Lewis, Deborah Kirkman, Stuart Morton

Commercial litigation

Solicitor c. 2 years' general commercial litigation experience to join established legal department of well-known services company. Must have strong enthusiastic personality and be a team player.

Property lawyer

Lawyer c. 4 years' ppe to join team of property lawyers handling large scale development and construction work for major financial services company.

Music/IP

Music industry organisation seeks lawyer min 5 years' copyright experience for high profile role which will also involve liaising with and lobbying government bodies.

David Woolfson, Paul Thomas, Emma Riddle

Commercial litigation

US firm internationally acclaimed litigation practice seeks City trained 1-3 year qualified solicitor for ADR, arbitration and litigation in English and US courts. Premium salary.

Pensions

Leading City firm with excellent pensions department seeks solicitor with 1-3 years' ppe to join supportive team for cutting edge pensions caseload into 50% pure pension work.

IT partner

Situated in a support dept or facing partnership bottleneck? Leading niche firm, wholly committed to technology clients, offers 4-7 year qual sol immediate partnership.

Construction

Exciting opportunity for recently qualified solicitor with contentious experience and good academic record to further specialise. Possibility of secondment abroad.

CHAMBERS
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

Seville House, 23 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL
Tel: 0171 606 8844 Fax: 0171 606 1793
e-mail: info@chambersrecruitment.co.uk

LEGAL EAGLES.

The RAF is seeking legal officers. Could you become one of our high fliers?

We are looking for young solicitors and barristers, preferably with some experience of criminal law, in addition to advising on criminal and disciplinary matters, and prosecuting and defending at courts martial in the UK and overseas, legal officers advise Commanders on questions of Operational, Civil, European and International law. If successful, you will be commissioned as a Flight Lieutenant on a starting salary of £25,502.

You will also enjoy up to six weeks annual leave and have access to a wide variety of excellent sports and leisure facilities. The Directorate of Legal Services is located at RAF Innsworth, Gloucester and officers also have the opportunity to serve in Cyprus, Germany and Northern Ireland.

For more information write with a comprehensive cv to: Air Commodore Richard Charles LLB RAF, Deputy Director of Legal Services, Room 997C, HQ PTC, RAF Innsworth, Gloucester GL3 1EZ, before 4th January 1999.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

WE ARE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS UNDER THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACT AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTIONS ACT 1997

TENANCY VACANCY

There is a vacancy for an outstanding civil practitioner (silk or junior over 7 years call) to join leading commercial and international law chambers in the Temple.

The successful applicant will be looking for a personal clerking service, colleagues of high quality and a friendly, not a "factory", environment. A solicitor advocate move to the Bar would be welcome.

Enquiries should be made to Box Number 4334 and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Forensic Partner

Opportunity to lead development of national team

Major national chartered accountancy practice is looking to expand its forensic services by the appointment of a London based partner to spearhead development of business units throughout the UK. We offer a friendly and professional environment in which technical excellence is paramount.

Applications invited from established practitioners with a caseload, court experience and ability to generate new assignments.

Please reply in writing with a detailed CV to:
Please respond to box number 4338

London-Practice • In-House

SPORTS LAW

Exciting new vacancy for a corporate sports lawyer, ideally with a sporting background to join the popular medium sized firm. Offering both good quality work and a friendly working environment, this is a unique opportunity to move into the booming area.

CAIRO

Fed up with Winter in London? Major international law firm seeks banking/project finance lawyer with 4-6 yrs ppe to join busy Egypt office. Support package.

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION

Two unusual vacancies for junior immigration lawyers wishing to progress their careers in progressive City firms. Top academics and experience (particularly of business immigration) gained in a City/major provincial firm essential. Top City package on offer.

IP LITIGATION

First class position for high calibre junior lawyer in the upstart, high profile team at this dynamic London practice. The firm offers first line involvement handling a contentious (and IP workload) and has an enviable client base. Very competitive salary.

FAMILY

Premier matrimonial firm has a leading reputation in complex financial, children & international cases. Strong experience of privately funded work is important.

CORPORATE

Quality of life move to join dynamic nine partner Corporate team in popular West End firm, working on behalf of clients in the marketing/advertising, publishing, fashion and cable & media sectors. You must have 1-3 yrs ppe gained in a major City firm.

CORPORATE TAX

Rare opportunity in this prestigious hedge partner firm to undertake varied workload for notable client base including media clients. A genuine quality of life move away from the City which offers strong prospects. You must have 1-4 yrs ppe.

Contact Caroline Pugh / Jackie Oshaleston / Sophie Brooks (London) or Simon Hall / Helen McManaway (In-House) on 0171 430 1711
Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EX. Fax: 0171 831 4186. E-mail: ggg@netcomuk.co.uk

2-4yrs

Banking

CAIRO

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION

IP LITIGATION

FAMILY

CORPORATE

CORPORATE TAX

2-4yrs

Banking

CAIRO

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION

IP LITIGATION

FAMILY

CORPORATE

CORPORATE TAX

VENTURE CAPITAL / CORP FINANCE

London - Young, niche venture capital house seeks c.2yr qualified corp fin or venture capital specialist to join as key player in small team. Great growth potential. c. £250k.

TRADEMARKS

London - Senior trademarks specialist (legally & not ITMA qualified) to join top multinational in varied international role (mainly non-contentious). Excellent medium term prospects.

GROUP LAWYER - CHANNEL ISLANDS

Highly successful young company seeks an experienced company lawyer to deal with all group legal matters particularly commercial, JV and acquisition work. Some retail, franchising & brand protection expertise ideal. Key role dealing at board level.

HEAD OF LEGAL / COMPLIANCE

Devotee - Progressive investment management co seeks to appoint a Head of Legal, Compliance & Company Secretary as key member of its young management team.

INTERNET

Herts - Exciting new role for a commercial IT lawyer with strong commercial approach to join fast expanding co. Broad commercial, IT, licensing and new media workload.

MULTIMEDIA

London - High profile multinational seeks a bright commercial lawyer, preferably with experience of new media issues to handle a broad workload of IT, internet and new media matters and to provide support on corporate transactions. To £250k + bene.

BANKING/FINANCE

London - Rare opportunity for banking/finance specialist with broad based experience to join leading multinational company as its main specialist. Working closely with the treasury team, breadth is key.

GG
GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

0171 430 1711

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX
0171 782 7899



Competition Lawyers London

As a leading international law firm, Norton Rose has a reputation for the highest quality of service to financial institutions and corporate clients around the world.

The volume of work handled by our Competition and EC Department has grown rapidly in recent years and we require experienced competition lawyers to add to our team.

During 1997-98 the range of work has included phase 2 EECMR proceedings; MMC inquiries; cases before the Court of First Instance; multi-jurisdictional mergers; Article 85 and 86 proceedings; investigations by sector regulators and judicial review of regulatory decisions. Many of these matters have a high public profile and are on the "cutting edge" of competition law and policy and regulation.

The Department's reputation is built on the skills and reputation of its lawyers and we positively encourage lawyers to develop their profile through writing and lecturing. A high level of client contact can be expected.

We are looking for dynamic and high quality competition lawyers who wish to develop their careers in a stimulating environment which offers excellent prospects for the right people. There are several positions available in our London office. Experience of the telecommunications sector will be an advantage for one of the posts.

If you would like to be considered for a position in this focused and ambitious team please send your CV to Celia Staples, Head of Personnel.

Norton Rose

Kempson House, Canomile Street, London EC3A 7AN

Tel: +44 0171 283 6000 Fax: +44 0171 283 6500 Email: staplesc@nortonrose.com

For further information on Norton Rose visit our web site at <http://www.nortonrose.com>

LONDON • HONG KONG • BRUSSELS • PARIS • SINGAPORE • BAHRAIN • PIRAEUS • MOSCOW

LEGAL ADVISER, CIVIL LITIGATION DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (OAG), NAIROBI

Your remit will be to assist the Civil Litigation Department to improve its overall performance through systems and capacity improvements, focusing in particular on para legal support services. Working in close consultation with the head of the OAG and his/her staff, you will assess the administrative support requirements of the department, and design and introduce new systems as required. The ability to design and implement in-country training programmes for para legal staff and draft proposals for short term consultancy support is essential.

QUALIFICATIONS

You will be a qualified and experienced lawyer or legal executive with extensive knowledge and experience of legal management systems, including revenue collection and taxation issues with respect to cost. Previous training experience and familiarity with IT applications in legal work is required.

An excellent communicator, you will have proven project management skills together with the ability to communicate easily in English whilst working at both the highest strategic and legal operational levels. Experience of working in the legal sector in developing countries, preferably in Africa or in other Commonwealth countries is highly desirable. Value for Money considerations will be applied as part of the selection process.

Applicants should either be a United Kingdom citizen, a Commonwealth citizen or an East African citizen.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

You will be contracted by the British Government for 18 months, providing services to the Government of the Republic of Kenya. An internationally competitive remuneration package will be offered on a consultancy basis. Applications are welcome from individuals as well as organisations.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 1st February 1999.

DFID Department for International Development

NICE

And you can get it.

ALLEN & OVERY

Life is about compromises - we all know that. What you want isn't always what you get. At Allen & Overy we have been redefining what we want. And what you'll get. We think it is time to stop compromising.

Quality should never be something to compromise over. At Allen & Overy you won't. Our banking and finance practice leads the way in our core practice areas such as syndications, acquisition finance, project finance and work-outs and restructurings. Our established US capability continues to grow and we work alongside the most prestigious international investment banks.

We'll give you opportunity too. We won't just assign you to one partner but we will encourage you to develop your practice by working with a number of partners, many leaders in their fields. And our partners won't hold you back. You can enjoy a settlement to one of our pre-eminent banking clients or choose to work in one of our many international offices if you have foreign language skills they don't need to go to waste.

We will never compromise the type of lawyers we want with. Nor should you. Perhaps untypical for a large city firm, our culture is down to earth. Crucially we don't always take ourselves seriously and we're not hung up about image. We do our own thing.

If you are tired of settling for second best, if you want to work for a firm where your ideas will be heard and your career will be built, then Allen & Overy is the place for you. It's nice work. And you can get it.

Do you want it?

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams or Sheila Sharpe on 0171 405 8000. (0171 784 8188 outside the UK). Or write to: Allen & Overy, 100 Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JL. E-mail: enquiries@ao.com

AO Legal
37-41 Boddard Row
London
WC1R 4LE
Confidential fax: 0171 851 8384

London
Birmingham
Manchester
Newcastle
Nottingham
Oxford
Preston
Sheffield
Sunderland
Tottenham
Warrington
York

UP TO £28K - BENEFITS - BASINGSTOKE

Develop your legal career with a blue-chip organisation

Senior Legal Advisors

The AA is one of the world's leading motoring organisations. But as well as offering breakdown and recovery assistance to more than nine million members, we have a portfolio of other significant businesses, from financial services to publishing and insurance.

At the hub of the complex organisation, our Group Legal Division plays a crucial and influential role, advising management across the AA Group and businesses in all legal matters. Reporting to the Group Legal Advisor and backed by a small support team, your varied involvement will range from assisting in commercial negotiation to drafting legal documentation, supervising litigation and vetting publicly material.

These positions present an ideal opportunity for commercially experienced legal professionals to develop a rewarding career with a major player in the corporate sector. Since qualification as either a Barrister or Solicitor, you should ideally have gained at least 5 years' experience in a busy commercial legal environment, certainly including the preparation of contracts. One position calls for experience of consumer credit compliance work; the other demands expertise in insurance and/or publishing. Persuasive communication and negotiating skills are also essential, ideally backed by a proven interest in increasing your specialisation in the designated fields.

In return, we offer an attractive salary and benefits package which is commensurate both with the seniority of these roles and the stature of the organisation. To apply, please telephone Group Personnel Operations on 01256 492100 for an application form, quoting ref: GR00588. Closing date for receipt of applications is 22nd December 1998. The Automobile Association, Farnon House, Basing View, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4EA.

All AA offices operate a no smoking policy.

AA

As an equal opportunity employer, we welcome applications from people in every part of the community

Exciting Opportunities in Dublin

The Firm

William Fry is one of Ireland's largest commercial law firms and operates from offices in Dublin and London. The firm advises many leading Irish and multinational companies and has a significant client base in both the public and private sectors.

Our Commercial Department advises on all aspects of corporate finance including mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, stock exchange related work including flotations and venture capital transactions.

Opportunities for Corporate Lawyers

Continued expansion across the firm's practice has created a number of exciting opportunities in our Dublin office. We currently have both permanent and short term positions available for young corporate lawyers.

We are seeking commercially minded self-starters with a good academic background and two to three years post qualification experience. The successful candidates will have general experience in corporate and commercial practice, including public companies and M&A work. In return we offer the opportunity to be part of a successful team, with an attractive remuneration package and excellent prospects within the firm.

WILLIAM FRY SOLICITORS

Applications will be treated in strictest confidence and should be sent to:
Jane Foster, Laurence Simons International, Craven House, 121 Kingway, London WC2B 6PA
E-mail: jane@laurencesimons.demon.co.uk Telephone: (0171) 831 3270 Facsimile: (0171) 831 4425
Closing date for receipt of applications is 15 December 1998
Third party applications will be forwarded directly to Laurence Simons International

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

SOLICITOR or BARRISTER qualified under the laws of England and Wales is required by a niche commercial law firm to work in the British Virgin Islands.

Candidates should have up to four years post qualification experience in a commercial firm and be willing to undertake a mixture of general commercial litigation and/or company/commercial work.

Interested applicants should fax their C.V. marked "Managing Partner" c/o AMS Group, Suite 8, 3rd Floor, Macmillan House, 90 Kensington High Street, London W8 4SG. Telephone number 0171 937 7733 and Fax number 0171 937 8185. Interviews will be held in London during the week of December 14th, 1998

3-4 SOUTH SQUARE

invites applications for assessed mini-pupillages

- Up to 10 placements of one week's duration available between March and July 1999.
- Each attracts a £500 award
- Applications by 12 February 1999 by CV and letter to Pupilage Secretary, 3-4 South Square, Gary's Inn, London WC1R 5HP (0171-696 9900)

CD CO - PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

CD CO - One of the very best for comp. law in the South East. We are looking for a qualified person to join our team. The position is a full time, permanent, salaried position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the firm. The position is a great opportunity for a motivated person to develop their career. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the firm. The position is a great opportunity for a motivated person to develop their career.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE - Paid position or qualified for team. We are looking for a qualified person to join our team. The position is a full time, permanent, salaried position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the firm. The position is a great opportunity for a motivated person to develop their career.

PROPERTY - RENTALS - Multiple rental clients, property development, general commercial. Two years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the firm. The position is a great opportunity for a motivated person to develop their career.

SKIING

Britain's skiers take sharp turn for better

By JOHN HOPKINS

FROM the White House came some good news. Not the White House in Washington DC, but the White House, Wimbledon, SW19, the headquarters of the Ski Club of Great Britain. It was there, within a fortnight of the famous tennis courts, that the annual meeting of the British Ski and Snowboard Federation (BSSF) took place yesterday and approved changes that should have far-reaching effects on British skiing and snowboarding.

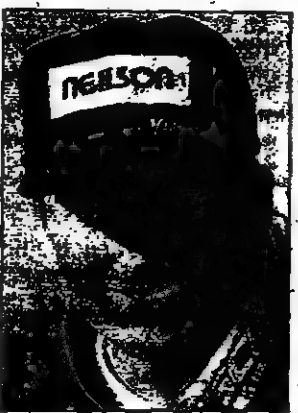
British skiing, ha-ha-ha. With apologies to Roddy Doyle, perhaps, like some cynics, we should mock the efforts of Great Britain's skiers and snowboarders, where a British success is finding a skier good enough to enter a World Cup event, a triumph if that same skier finishes among the top 50. Such cynicism, though not always wide of the mark, is as unhelpful as a poor turn. British skiing is rather like a picnic, a triumph against the odds, a lowland nation attempting to compete with nations for whom skiing enjoys a much higher profile.

The changes that were agreed at Wimbledon are aimed at improving the performance of British skiers, increasing the numbers of the best, giving a better return for potential sponsors and attempting to make Britain a far greater force in skiing. These were some of the biggest changes there have been in British skiing in modern times," Mike Jardine, the chief executive of the BSSF, said.

The annual meeting approved the election of a seven-man board of directors, who were voted in by a newly-created electoral college, who were, in broad terms, the old guard of skiing. The BSSF board now comprises a chairman

and his deputy, as well as commercial, finance, events and disciplines directors. The men who fill these positions are businessmen with expertise in their areas, exceptionally so in the case of Andrew Steel, the deputy chairman, who is a former Anglo-Scottish champion and outstanding student skier. Steel has an MBA from Harvard.

One name, above all others, will sound familiar. It is that of Graham Bell, the former British skier, whose appointment



Bell: key appointment

as skier, whose appointment was formally made at the start of this month and whose job will be to look after the performance of British skiers. "Graham knows what it's like, what people want and need and how to achieve it," Tim Alcock, the new chairman, said. "We are very pleased to get him."

"Ski racing is an exciting and dynamic sport, sport, Jardine said. "We have athletes who are very close to the top and we hope to be in a position to give them support, to push them up."

As an example of an outstanding athlete, Jardine cited Emma Carrick-Anderson,

who finished fourteenth after the first run of the opening World Cup Slalom in Park City, Utah, last month, ahead of Anita Wachter, of Austria, the Olympic champion, and Yvonne Nafziger, of Sweden, who is the World Cup overall slalom champion. Alain Baxter, a specialist in slalom and giant slalom, who is ranked No 87 in the world, is the first British skier to be ranked in the top 100 at a technical event.

There are seven in the senior team and six in the junior team. We want to put more funds into the people we think will go somewhere," Jardine said. "We do not have an assistant coach or a physiotherapist. The last time there was a physio with the British team was at the world championships in 1991. This is bare minimum stuff. We can do better."

It had not been a foregone conclusion that such drastic changes would be ratified. They were dreamed up two months ago and had to be unofficially approved by the members and then put to the annual meeting.

"Mike [Jardine] has worked with a small and elite team that has as much time on snow as anyone," Alcock said. "What we need to produce is more peer pressure. We have outstanding athletes, we need to produce more of them to put pressure on one another and drive each other on."

Alcock has already warned his fellow directors of the way in which times have changed. "We have to formulate business plans to support Mike's performance plans," Alcock said. "I have told them: 'You will do this or be criticised. You will be made aware of the fact that you are not here because you represent someone else, but because of your expertise in a certain area.'"



Neil Smith, the Denver defensive end, makes his point after sacking Rich Gannon, the Kansas City quarterback

Vintage Elway saves the day

By OLIVER HOLT

THE veteran quarterbacks of the National Football League (NFL), who have submerged the sport in an ocean of sentimentality and reminiscence with their ageing skills this season, excelled themselves again at the weekend, keeping their respective teams to the fore as the regular season stampeded towards its climax.

At the head of the pack was John Elway, who seems to chalk up a new record every week. He chose last Sunday in the Mile High Stadium to throw for 400 yards worth of passes for the first time in 13 years as the Denver Broncos edged past the Kansas City Chiefs with a stirring fourth-quarter comeback.

The Chiefs had raced into an early 14-0 lead and it seemed that Denver's dreams of winning their 16 regular-season games were about to die. They trailed 31-21 midway through the final quarter, but Elway is known for his orchestration of late, late comebacks. It was his throw that set up the play with which Terrell Davis, the Broncos' running back, re-

duced the deficit to three points. Then, with just over three minutes of the game remaining, Elway completed a 24-yard touchdown pass to Shannon Sharpe to put Denver into the lead. The victory means they have won all 13 of their games this season.

"That was one of those great football games," Mike

Shanahan, the Broncos' coach, said. "It was one of those games you enjoy coaching. It showed me the character of our team, the way they hung in there for 60 minutes. They found a way to win."

If Elway grabbed most of the headlines, the best individual performance of the day belonged to Vinny Testaverde, the quarterback of the New York Jets. Testaverde, formerly of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, not only threw for 418 yards but also scored the controversial late touchdown that brought the Jets their 32-31 victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

"I felt like there was a gap between the guards to run the sneak," Testaverde said. "I took a chance, we got lucky

and I was able to get the ball in the end zone. I kind of bobbled it as I was running through their defensive line and I wasn't able to reach the ball out, but the ref called it good."

Finally, there was Randall Cunningham, the oldest, most experienced quarterback of them all, who is enjoying such a warm Indian summer with the Minnesota Vikings. The Vikings have been a revelation this season and on Sunday they confirmed their emergence with a 48-22 thrashing of the Chicago Bears in Minneapolis, which clinched the National Football Conference Central division championship for them. Cunningham threw for 349 yards in the rout, which put the Vikings, whose record is now 12-1, out of the reach of the Green Bay Packers.

"We had hoped to win the division," Cunningham said, "but our main objective was to keep winning. With all the problems we have had, it is almost unbelievable that we are 12-1."

ATHLETICS

Hemery presses for drugs test move

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of leading European nations have agreed that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) should be urged to ban countries that do not conduct adequate programmes of out-of-competition drug testing.

"Only those countries which agree to out-of-competition testing should compete at the Olympics," David Hemery, the president of UK Athletics, said after attending a meeting in Frankfurt that had been set up as a so-called "brainstorming" session by the European Athletic Association.

Hemery singled out China as a country at which the measure was aimed. Though Chinese athletes have not been exposed in the way that its swimmers were at the world championships in Perth this year, when vials of banned human growth hormone were found in a competitor's luggage and four swimmers tested positive for taking a banned diuretic, the athletics world record lists remain tainted by suspicion.

The world records set by Chinese women in four middle and long-distance running events between 1993 and 1997 have remained way out of reach to the rest of the world. Hemery gave Great Britain's backing to a letter sent to the IOC by Professor Helmut Digel, the German federation president, seeking sanctions against non-conforming countries.

"We should hit them where it hurts the most," Hemery added. "Television and other IOC revenues should be given only to countries that support out-of-competition testing."

Hemery said that Professor Digel did not expect to succeed with his controversial proposal, which is to be laid before the International Amateur Athletic Federation congress next August, calling for a clean slate on world records from January 2000.

20 Essex Street

Chambers of David Johnson, QC

NEW POSITION in Senior Clerk's team in leading and long-established Commercial Law Barristers' Chambers. Legal background strongly preferred, but previous clerking experience not essential. Excellent package offered, commensurate with age and ability. Written applications (enclosing C.V.) in confidence to Mark Havelock-Allan Q.C. or Neil Palmer at 20 Essex Street, London WC2R 3AL.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION PARTNER

Outstanding opportunities for heavyweight litigators have been few and far between in recent years as most firms have chosen to focus on their corporate counterparts. This cohesive and flourishing partnership is different; not only is their busy litigation team highly valued and supported but all the partners have made a positive choice to balance quality of life with professional glory. A like-minded senior litigator who would relish the opportunity to drive the success of the department even further forward is now sought. Your area of contentious expertise matters less than your energy and enthusiasm for a key role within a happy and successful practice.

FOR FURTHER AND BETTER PARTICULARS CALL, IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE, SARAH KING AT E.J. LEGAL, 44-45 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2A 1JL. TEL 0171 404 6669, FAX 0171 404 8817, PMAWFE 0171 404 2039.

EXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATOR FOR A LEADING BARRISTERS' CHAMBERS

Enthusiastic Chambers, a leading Barristers' Chambers specialising in company law and related commercial subjects, requires an experienced administrator and office manager with accounting, IT and marketing skills. Experience in the legal services industry would be an advantage but is not essential.

The successful applicant will be an important new addition to an established team, have a high level of personal initiative and will have responsibility for:-

- Chambers' building and office administration
- Chambers' accounts (legal)
- The installation, administration and development of a new IT network
- Administration and co-ordination of promotional and marketing activities

The salary will be competitive and is negotiable according to experience and qualifications.

Please supply enclosing a CV and the names of two referees to Mark Swallow, Enthusiastic Chambers, 30 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PT.

The closing date for applications is 31st December 1998.

Applications are invited from Civil Practitioners with over 5 years' continuous practice, to join an established set, with moderate overheads, in Gray's Inn. Applications should be addressed to the management committee, marked "Tenacity Application", Box Number 4239.

SHIPPING LAW - TAX-FREE SALARY

A lawyer, with postgraduate qualifications in Shipping Law, is required to participate in the teaching of an international maritime law postgraduate degree course. Teaching and LIT experience in the field would be desirable. Must be prepared to participate in the institution's LIT initiatives, and to work in the Mediterranean. Attractive tax-free package based on U.K. Salary Scales. Please provide three references and a photo.

Please respond to box number 4332 by 28th December, 1998.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No.
c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS
P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON, E1 9GA

Offel

Office of Telecommunications

London, EC4

Regulatory and Competition Lawyers

£35-£45,000

Telecommunications are key to the UK's economic success and an essential part of life in the knowledge driven economy. Technological developments are accelerating and rapidly increasing the range of services available across the networks. OFFEL has regulated telecoms since 1984 and has established a high reputation for its work protecting consumers and promoting competition. A key part of OFFEL's work lies in developing the regulatory framework to respond to technological and market changes within an evolving EU framework. OFFEL also has an important role as a competition authority which has been significantly enhanced by the new Competition Act. OFFEL's team of lawyers play a key role in both regulatory and competition work.

Regulatory Lawyer

Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team your work will mainly involve advising on projects, often culminating in the drafting of licence modifications or the implementation of EU directives. You will actively contribute to policy development whilst ensuring compliance with legal constraints. The post is ideally suited to an ambitious lawyer looking to develop a career in regulatory or Government work.

About you

A lawyer with probably 2-8 years post qualification experience, you will have excellent analytical skills and legal knowledge including significant exposure to community law. You will also have sound drafting skills. Previous experience of advisory work is desirable but not essential and some knowledge of administrative, competition or telecommunications law would be an advantage. Ref: MT/07093

Two Competition Lawyers

Working in OFFEL's busy Compliance Directorate as part of a multi-disciplinary team, your primary role will be to advise on the investigation of licence enforcement complaints and anti-competitive practices. The work will involve both EC and UK legislation (including the new Competition Act). This interesting and varied role will suit ambitious lawyers looking to develop their career in communications and competition work.

About you

A lawyer with around 2-5 years post qualification experience, you will have a good knowledge of competition law and its application, backed by an excellent working knowledge of community law. Previous exposure to the telecommunications industry would be an advantage. You should be a strong team player with an eye for detail and the ability to master complex cases, presenting your findings in a clear and methodical fashion. Ref: MT/07094

These appointments are initially for 3-5 years with real prospects of extension or conversion to permanent status. The closing date for receipt of applications is 12th January 1999. Interviews will take place at the end of January. To receive an application pack and further information on these interesting roles, please telephone Hays Executive on 0171 406 5533 or fax on 0171 323 9732, quoting the appropriate reference number.

Hays Executive

STRATEGIC SEARCH & SELECTION

Ambitious I P Lawyers

London

Competitive Packages

Our client is one of the most successful research-based pharmaceutical companies, currently in a phase of strong expansion and with numerous leading products in key world markets.

An exceptionally challenging career opportunity has now arisen for two young, ambitious I P lawyers to join its sizeable in-house team of professionals and participate in major multinational litigation cases.

The department is a highly respected and visible resource, which plays a significant part in ensuring the organisation's continued business success in a fiercely competitive marketplace. Thus it is essential that you can demonstrate the highest standards of professional excellence and a successful career path in a major law firm.

You must have a minimum of 2 years post-qualification experience, backed up with a first degree in chemistry, pharmacy or a related discipline. Important personal attributes are an outgoing and determined personality, an international outlook and the capability of leading a multidisciplinary team.

Packages will be designed to attract the best candidates.

For an initial discussion, write with career and contact details to Marion Grant at

Johnson Miller, 52 Upper Brook Street, London W1Y 1PG.

Tel: 0171 468 2110. Fax: 0171 493 4220.

E-mail: 52upperbrookstreet@dial.pipex.com

Johnson • Miller

the children's matter, was not permitted to take the stand. They tried to hammer a stake - assaulted by Mr Rush

CRICKET: ENGLAND BATSMAN MAY ABANDON TOUR AFTER BACK INJURY CAUSES MORE PROBLEMS

Thorpe likely to return home



Walking wounded: Gough, the England twelfth man, and Crawley look on as Thorpe trudges back to the dressing-room after having to retire hurt.

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

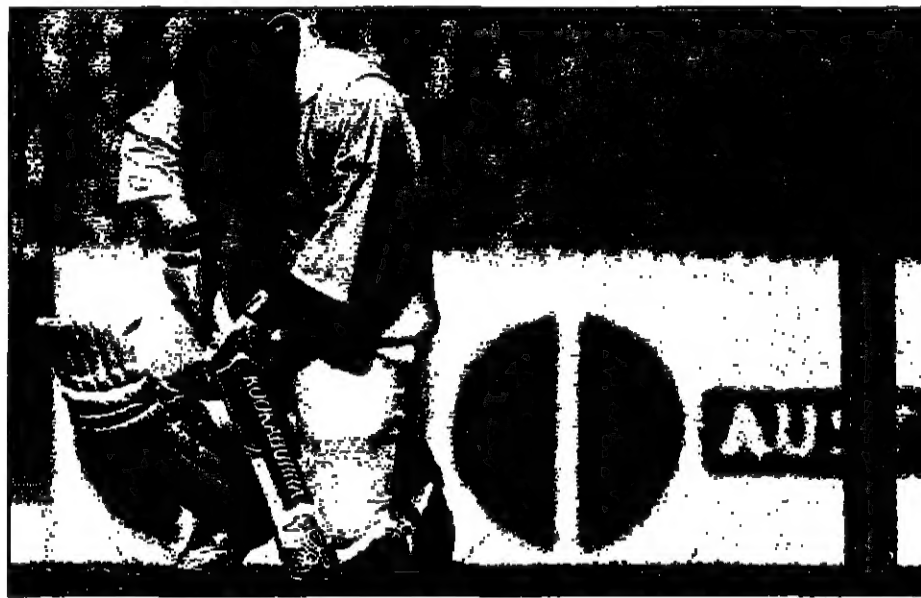
MELBOURNE (third day of four): England XI, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 280 runs ahead of Victoria.

GRAHAM THORPE was effectively ruled out of the third Test match — and quite possibly the rest of this tour — when his troublesome back forced him to retire hurt here yesterday, 40 uncomfortable minutes into an innings that was intended to confirm his fitness.

The England management will decide today whether Thorpe should return home, but, already, they will be acknowledging privately that it was a mistake to bring him. Last night, Graham Gough, the tour manager, said: "We are not going to rush anything, but we will have to assess the situation in another 24 hours."

Wayne Morton, the physiotherapist, added: "If it's bad tomorrow, we have two decisions to make. He would be less than a 50 per cent chance for this Test and we would ask ourselves how long we should keep dragging a wounded soldier around."

Thorpe himself had stated that he needed to get through this four-day game against Victoria in order to play in the Adelaide Test, which starts on Friday. Despite a pain-free first innings and a day in the



Thorpe leans on his bat for support after aggravating his old back injury yesterday

field in which he took a smart, stooping slip catch, he has failed. He had made only a single, from 29 balls, when he alerted Morton to his discomfort and it was decided during the drinks interval that he should come off. "It kept locking on him," Gough said. "He felt he couldn't continue."

Plainly, Thorpe has a fundamental weakness. Sadly, it must now be accepted that it is likely to shorten his career. The regularity with which he has broken down during the past nine months makes him an unacceptable risk for five-

day cricket, and the wise course would be for him to seek advice and treatment back in England.

Thorpe's woes began during the Barbados Test match in March, when he retired briefly during his first-innings century. He returned home early from that tour, missing the bulk of the one-day cricket, then withdrew from the England Test squad in May and finally submitted to surgery after making three successive Test match noughts in mid-summer.

"He's been a risk from the time we brought him out, because he is post-surgery," Morton said, "but he has actually had a fairly trouble-free rehabilitation until the last 14 days. He's improved in what is, in Perth, but he felt it again 20 minutes before he went into bat today."

"Graham is going through a period of muscle re-education and to some extent it's working, but the problem with back pain is that it comes and goes unpredictably and it can happen at some inconvenient times."

Unlike Michael Atherton, who has a colossal resolve to play in spite of his comparable, yet longer-term back injury, Thorpe frets and broods over ailments. One of the more impenetrable personalities of this side, there has been a feeling throughout the tour

that he has doubted his capacity to complete it. Whatever he may lack in stoicism, however, is compensated by a record against Australia that has few equals. Thorpe averages almost 50 in Ashes Test matches, ensuring that he commands greater respect here than most Englishmen. His loss, to any realistic prospects of overturning the 1-0 deficit, is immense.

This match was always likely to be more about elimination than illumination. Until Thorpe's relapse, the events of yesterday had done little to clear England's thinking, with most of the wickets and runs being produced by two of the least likely candidates for Adelaide.

Dean Headley, whose seam bowling credentials have been relegated by the advances of Alex Tudor, finished with five for 58 as England finally dis-

missed Victoria for 300. Then John Crawley, his Test place apparently lost after four successive failures, made 68 in his stand-in opening role.

Neither man can now be discounted from England's Test plans. Headley used the new ball far more potently than Angus Fraser, who has had one of those games when he appears to be running in through a sand-dune, and he is a valid alternative to Dominic Cork if England persist with four seam bowlers.

Crawley's route back has obviously been opened as much by Thorpe's misfortune as his own innings, which contained some fluent driving punctuated by too many of the flat-footed lunges that scar his game. His hopes still rest on England playing seven batsmen, for Graeme Hick looks far more commanding.

It had taken England another hour at the start of play to separate the Victorian sub-wicket pair. Shawn Craig and Peter Kosch came together at 87 for five and added 130, not always prettily but with great determination. The last four Victorian wickets fell for 19, leaving Craig unbeaten on 83 after more than six hours' batting and England played positively to expand their 73-run lead towards an overnight declaration.

Atherton was brilliantly caught at long-leg — and it will interest Glenn McGrath to hear that he was looking again — and Nasser Hussain was run out as he backed up. After the departure of Thorpe, Rampersad and Stewart blazed away without inhibition, setting up a potentially interesting last day that will be restricted to 48 hours to allow England to take an evening flight to Adelaide.

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

England 28: First innings 373 (A.J. Stewart 128, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45)	Victoria First innings
Second innings	J.L. Ambrose 16
J.P. Conway 81, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
M.A. Atherton 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.A. Atherton 14
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	A.S. Gifford 14
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	M.P. May 81
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R.A. Jones 71
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.R. Baker 41
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	J.L. Ambrose 16
G.R. Visser 11, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	G.R. Visser 11
S.A.J. Clark 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	S.A.J. Clark 28
R. Hudson 28, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	R. Bailey 28
A.J. Stewart 14, M.P. May 81, R.A. Jones 71, J.R. Baker 41 for 45	P.J. Rouse 28
G.R. Visser	



RUGBY UNION 46

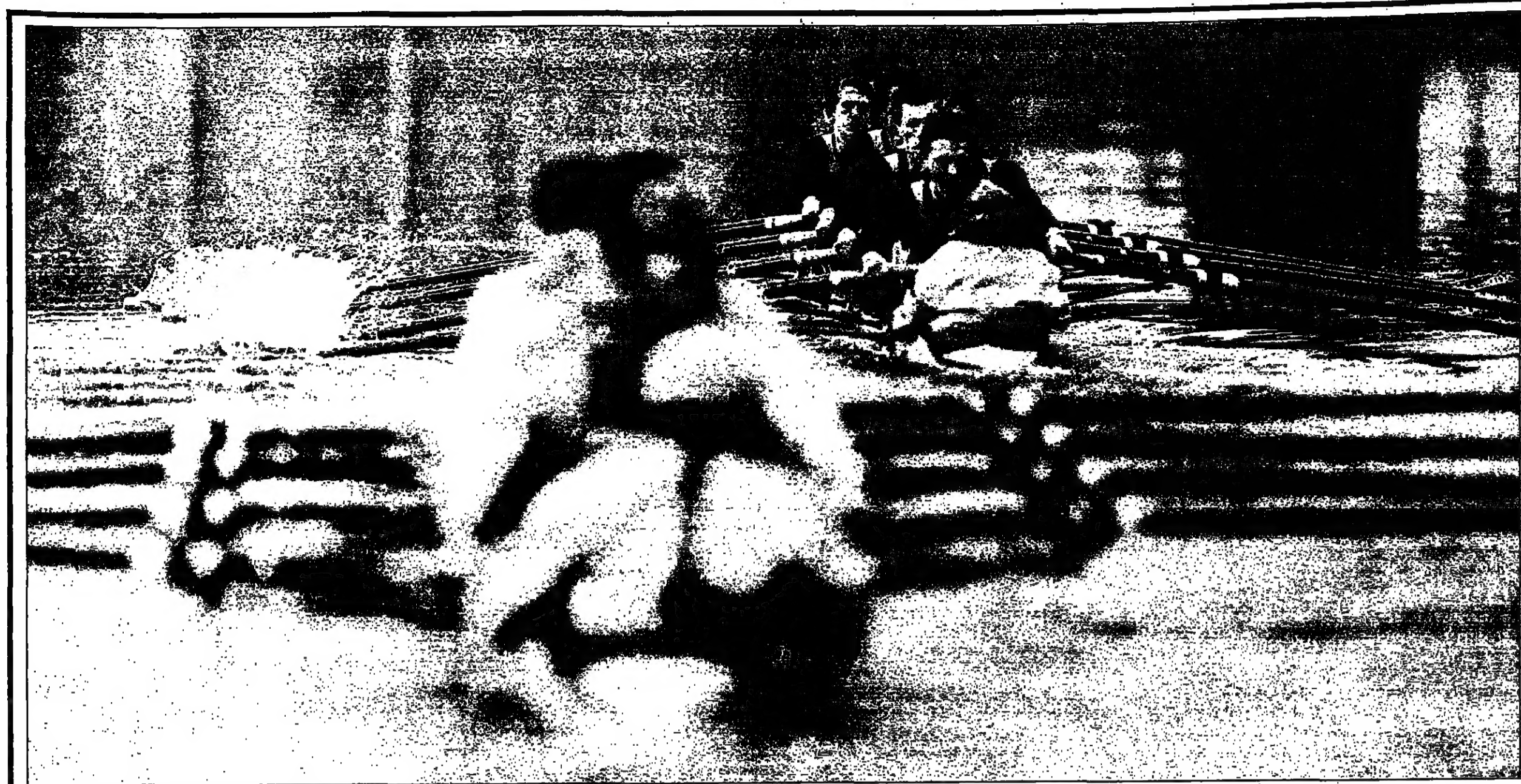
All Blacks wary of dazzling new northern lights

SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8 1998

CRICKET 50

Thorpe lands England back in trouble



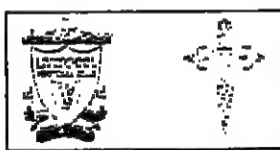
The "Itchy" dark blue crew, right, ease ahead of "Scratchy", their rivals, on their way to victory in the Cambridge University Trial Eights from Putney to Mordake yesterday. Report, page 49. Photograph: Marc Aspland.

Liverpool hope pride can prevent fall

THE Uefa Cup tie at Anfield tonight is gathering significance at an alarming rate. It offers Liverpool an opportunity to mend bridges with disaffected supporters who are threatening to stay at home in their thousands, a chance for established stars to prove their commitment and for fringe players to make heroes of themselves.

Michael Owen is the latest to qualify his ardour for the club and his comments yesterday — that he is ambitious for

European success and could move abroad at the end of his five-year contract — were countered with a plea from Gerard Houllier for the top Liverpool players to make their dreams come true at Anfield. "Michael is not the only one who wants to win things," the Liverpool manager said. "Maybe this is a good match in which to show whether you care for Liverpool and to show what it means to wear the red shirt. The players have the power, they also have the pride."



By Alyson Rudd

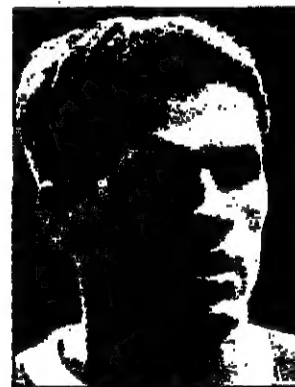
It promises to be an evening of scenario-swapping. A straightforward victory seems so unlikely, given how desperately the Liverpool squad is depleted and how superior their opponents looked in the first leg of the third-round tie in Vigo two weeks ago, not to mention the debilitating hesitancy of the Liverpool defence.

So, while the supporters know that a 2-0 defeat of the Spanish side will be enough, few can truly expect Houllier's team to prevent Celta Vigo from scoring. That leaves 3-1,

a mirror image of the scoreline in Spain and the possibility of an extra-time decider or a penalty shoot-out.

In 1969, the away-goals rule was in its infancy and Liverpool, playing in the second round, second leg of the Fairs Cup, beat Vitória Setúbal 3-2 on the night, taking them to 3-3 on aggregate. No one left the Kop at the final whistle. They were waiting for extra time and it took an announcement over the public address system to confirm what seemed illogical and unfair: that Liverpool had been knocked out.

Fans are more sophisticated these days, but even a dangerously low IQ can spot that this Liverpool team have problems. In the first leg, Liverpool more or less gifted Celta their three goals, even though, on



Owen: ambitious

the balance of play, the Spanish team deserved such a margin of victory.

Houllier cannot suddenly produce an assured, towering defence out of the resources that combined to lose away to

Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, but a monumental degree of effort, from every player, could serve to frustrate the visitors. Unfortunately, Liverpool have become so aware of their frailties that they are turning into a self-fulfilling prophecy. All Vigo have to do is ask the questions and Liverpool will become dysfunctional.

But that is all part of the longer-term problems. Of more immediate concern is that Houllier has four integral players — McManaman, Redknapp, Ince and Heggem — suspended. "If we get through, it will be one of the best performances from this club for a long, long time," he said.

By yesterday evening, fewer than 20,000 tickets had been sold. Terrestrial television coverage would not be a factor worth mentioning if Liverpool

were on a hot streak and Houllier made a plea for the fans to play their part. "When you are going through a difficult period, you need friends," he said. "The players need the crowd's backing from the first minute."

Urging everyone on will be the new captain, Robbie Fowler, whom Houllier praised for his increased maturity. "You choose the player, but before that you choose the man," he said. Cometh the hour, and all that.

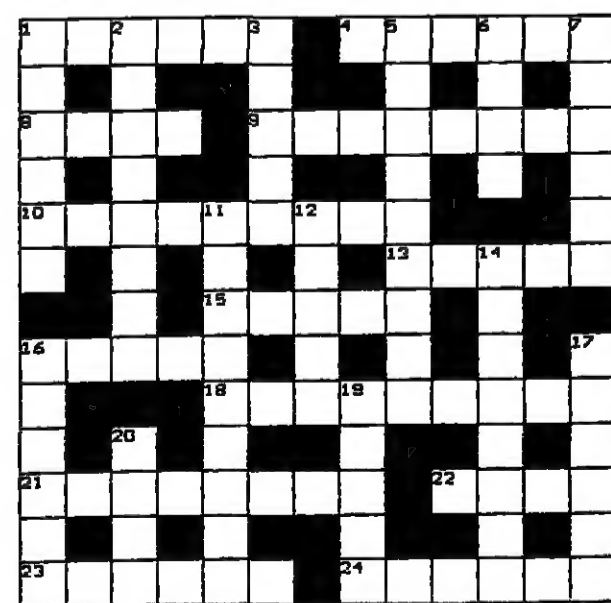
Houllier confirmed that he will stick with the wing-back system, but if Vigo play with one striker, he will adapt accordingly. Speculation that he would play Owen, Fowler and Kiedle was dampened

when Houllier indicated that he plans to keep the German forward on the bench.

How Liverpool long for consistency, but that can hang off tonight: the team defies the odds and produces a thrilling comeback. Such a result would keep the club's European aspirations alive until March, when the quarter-finals are staged, and give Houllier some extra breathing space in which to heal Liverpool of their deeper wounds.

LIVERPOOL (probable 4-4-2): D. James — P. Snel, G. Staunton, J. Carragher — J. McManaman, G. Gerrard, G. Hargreaves, P. Snel, S. Barnes, S. B. Roberts — M. Owen, R. Fowler. CELTA VIGO (probable 4-3-3): R. Delgado — M. Salgado, F. Casares, G. Oporto, Torres — V. Kuper, M. Zúñiga, C. Melendo — A. Mestres — L. Pérez, J. G. Sánchez. Referee: H. Strömberg (Germany). TELEVISION: Channel 5, from 7.15pm

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1583

ACROSS

- 1 Of the universe (6)
- 4 Dirty smear (6)
- 8 Chief sounds like a US state (4)
- 9 Accident narrowly averted (4,4)
- 10 Slave kind to Lion (eg G B Shaw) (9)
- 13 Rich (Austrian) cake (5)
- 15 Jewelled headress (5)
- 16 Trial panelist (5)
- 18 A thief (Gk. myth): a pedlar (Winter's Tale) (9)
- 21 Easily deceived (6)
- 22 Bloke, bay (4)
- 23 Brother's boy (6)
- 24 Lyme Regis county (6)

DOWN

- 1 Struggle against (6)
- 2 One defrauding (8)
- 3 One imputing worst motives (5)
- 5 Thin wisp of cloud (5,4)
- 6 Irish Lower House (4)
- 7 Make certain (6)
- 11 Banish: send to Coventry (9)
- 12 Inclined: rested (against) (5)
- 14 War victim, prisoner, aid group (5,5)
- 16 Barbarous, specialist, vocabulary (6)
- 17 Agreement (6)
- 19 Mountain nymph (5)
- 20 Toss: disrespectful (slang) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1582

- ACROSS: 1 Ascent 4 Limited 8 Ennoble 9 Extol 10 Diary 11 Obtain 13 Either 15 Soothe 18 Quarry 20 Flint 22 Lodge 23 Negated 24 Re-entry 25 Tardy
DOWN: 1 Aberdeen 2 Contact 3 Tubby 4 Lie low 5 Maestro 6 Turt 7 Dole 12 Heatedly 14 Earnest 16 Twister 17 Sydney 19 Undue 20 Fight 21 Star

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE
The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-12) 99p. The Times Crosswords (Book 20) 99p. £2.99. The Times Junior Crosswords (Book 3) is available to Times readers for just 4 (RRP £1.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
The Times Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order simply call 0900 134 450 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/POD please make payable to Mrs Bodo Crosswords and send to The Times Bookshop, PO Box 345, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 2YX. Delivery, in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

Times man is top tipster

By Chris McGrath

RICHARD EVANS, the racing correspondent of *The Times*, was yesterday confirmed as winner of the Bollinger Tipsters' Challenge at the 1999 Derby Awards, the annual prize-giving lunch of the Horserace Writers and Photographers Association. Evans beat a field of more than 70 tipsters from the national, trade and regional press to show a remarkable profit of £213,600, based on a notional £1 level stake for his tips in every race at the 15 biggest National Hunt and Flat meetings in the racing calendar.

Evans, who won £500, a free £100 bet with the Tote and a Methuselah of Bollinger champagne, said: "After napping Cavalero, the 40-1 winner of the Foxhunters' Chase over the Grand National fences, and Tom Dougal, who scored at 33-1 in a huge field of handicappers at the Craven meeting at Newmarket also in the spring, I found myself forced

to make the running from an early stage of the competition. With Simon Walker, an expert with the specialist publication, *Timeform*, breathing down my neck, the winning post came just in time."

Elaborating upon his overall strategy, Evans said: "The key to winning this competition was the same as the key to betting generally — you've got to go for value. In other words, horses that are bigger prices than they are entitled to be. When in doubt, however, I can always fall back on the tried-and-trusted solution of supporting horses trained by David Loder, the outstanding young trainer in Europe."

Evans, who was named Racing Journalist of the Year at the 1995 awards, was among 500 guests at the lunch in London yesterday. Those who topped a poll of the racing press this year were: Tony McCoy (National Hunt Jockey); Kieren Fallon (Flat Jockey); the Summit Partnership, owners of Earth Summit (Owner of the Year); Saeed bin Suroor (Flat Trainer of the Year); Martin Pipe (National Hunt Trainer of the Year); Michael Leaman and Geoff Snook (Stable Staff of the Year); Claude Duval, of *The Sun*, was named Journalist of the Year and Alec Russell, Photographer of the Year. Tim Foster, three times the trainer of the Grand National winner, was honoured on his retirement with the George Ennors Trophy for Outstanding Achievement.



Evans: early leader

O'Leary brings Batty home

By George Caulkin

ONLY by the standards of a professional stuntman could the past six months of David Batty's career be deemed uneventful, but after the small matter of his World Cup penalty miss, a lengthy suspension for manhandling a referee and those grisly adverts of him clad in women's underwear, a little normality should emerge today when the England midfielder finally re-signs for Leeds United.

With the ink on a five-year extension to his contract at Newcastle United barely dry, Batty, 30, will complete the formalities of his £4.4 million transfer today, returning to the home-town club that he joined as a trainee in 1987. He completed a medical yesterday, leaving only the issue of personal terms extant. "We don't foresee any problems," Drew Tiffney, his adviser, said.

After a protracted and, at times, bitter pursuit, Batty becomes David O'Leary's first

significant signing as manager of Leeds, for a little less than the record £4.5 million the club paid for Tomas Brodin and Lee Sharpe.

He might have been George Graham's last buy before heading for Tottenham Hotspur, had Newcastle not dismissed his tentative enquiry last September. They similarly rejected O'Leary's initial bid of £4 million, made in the aftermath of Batty's transfer request 11 days ago, with Rudi Gullit, the Newcastle manager, holding out hopes that Lucas Radebe, the South Africa defender, might be involved in any settlement. Radebe, however, is on the verge of agreeing an improved four-year contract with Leeds, worth an estimated £20,000 per week.

Newcastle retreated to a straight £6 million valuation — a potential stumbling block had the player not forfeited £800,000 in wages and signing-on fees by demanding a move. Batty chose that route when it became clear that commuting from Wetherby — where his family live — was far from practical.

The matter came to a head a month ago, when Batty was omitted from the starting line-up against Sheffield Wednesday. He has trained with the reserves since and despite his dearth of first-team football he is almost certain to start the televised match with Coventry City next Monday.



Batty: unhappy commuter

MORSE

We don't interview new recruits.

We just look at their CVs.

Unlike When companies make investment decisions, they want to know what they are getting for their money.

Morse has Enterprise Computing Centres for just this reason. Clients can put large, complex systems through their paces before they buy them. They often camp out in our centres for weeks before they are satisfied.

Our competitors have really nice brochures.



Morse Computers

No 1 for Sun. 0800 22 88 88. www.morse.com

Viduka's strike, page 48
Worried Wenger, page 48
Rangers' surprise, page 48